

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH

SOCCER

VOL. 23 No. 1105 — TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2002



● REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIAN POST
● PUBLICATIONS No. NBQ5726

WEEKLY

\$3.60
GST INCLUSIVE



RARING TO GO — SEASON 2002/2003

By Mark Stavroulakis

Amidst all the turmoil and drama the code has suffered during the past few months involving Australia's governing body Soccer Australia and its National League clubs, season 2002/03 looks set to be one of the best yet.

13-clubs will be gunning for a top six spot which in turn will see the new finals system take place — ala the Swiss League whereby a whole new round will commence.

Unfortunately the league has yet been able to grab a major sponsor for the competition, and indications are also evident

that television rights are also yet to be determined.

NSL general manager Stefan Kamasz stated that the best SA could do was resolve the current television rights issue, as settling this case would boost the code's chances of securing a major sponsor for Australian soccer's elite league.

Channel 7 are still interested in showing the National League matches this season however the closure of C7 has made talks between the pair more difficult.

Kamasz stated that the opportunity of National League clubs running the league itself looks more prominent for the following season, provided SA and the NSL work together in achieving this proposal.

The NSL currently sits as one of the very few elite soccer competitions in the world currently managed by its national governing body, so a possible change could wake up the sleeping giant of Australian sport.

On the club front, this season has seen an enormous change in terms of clubs signing up new players.

Many National League clubs have been active during the transfer season, which will see many new and familiar faces playing for different clubs across Australia.

Last year's Grand-Final winners the Olympic Sharks look set to put all their off-season fiasco involving Leeds United behind by being crowned Australian

champions once again.

The acquisition of two of Australia's most promising youngsters in Joel Porter and former U17 Joeys captain Mark Byrnes, followed by former Wollongong Wolves captain George Souris could signal the start of a big year for the Cronulla-based side.

Coach Garry Phillips has the belief that his club can achieve similar results as last season however admits the club's long-term future still lingers with doubt.

Minor Premiers for the past two seasons, the Glory hope to overcome their Grand-Final bug by trying to take out both honours this year.

Mich d'Avray has not been as active as

other clubs in terms of transfers but the Glory will unveil German import Andre Gumprecht and Ben Blake as prominent players in his new squad.

Classed as the busiest club in terms of signing new players, the Parramatta Power will field no more than twelve new players and also new coach Nick Theodorakopoulos for the new season.

Pablo Cardozo, Royce Brownlie, Alvin Ceccoli, Brad Maloney and Kosta Salapasis are just some of the many players the Power will host this season, in their bid to gain a top six finish — something the club has yet to fulfil since its National League debut in '99.

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AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

Issue No. 1105

"Published every Tuesday by
F.L. Press
118-124 Bourke Rd,
Alexandria NSW 2015

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MAILING ADDRESS
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Alexandria NSW 2015

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Overseas: \$255 (GST incl.)

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Deadline for contributions, articles
and advertising is 3 days PRIOR to
issue date.

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Middlesbrough have completed the signing of Australian international Tony Vidmar.

The defender was able to join outside of the transfer window as he is a free agent since being released by Rangers at the end of last season.

Boss Steve McClaren said, "We are delighted to bring Tony on board because when Gianluca Festa left the club, we were a bit

seemed destined to play at a higher level in the near future.

But his career is now on hold while he recovers from an injury that is yet another blow to Millwall, who are already without Richard Sadlier and Steven Reid.

★★★★

Bradford City have snared former Wollongong Wolves midfielder Paul Reid on a four month deal.

His signing has marked a long chase for the highly-rated Australian, who was planning to move to Bradford in the summer, only for the deal to be held up because of the financial situation.

Law is pleased to have him on a four-month deal at Valley Parade now though, and said: "We saw a little bit of him when he had trials with Wolves last season. I spoke to Dave Jones and he rated him very highly, but said they had players of similar capabilities.

"He's an energetic up and down player, he's at the right age, and hopefully he'll do well."

Reid said: "I've played football since I was five years old, and wanted to come here since I was 13.

"It's a dream come true and hopefully I can get into the first team and start performing well on the field.

"It looked like I wouldn't be coming here in the summer because of what happened but I'm so happy to be here now. Hopefully I can get into the first team and work Bradford up the league.

"The English league is a lot quicker and faster all across the park. I like playing one-touch football, so hopefully that'll stand me in good stead."

And the new acquisition scored for the Bantams' reserves in a 3-2 defeat by Sheffield United later in the week.

★★★★

Andy Petterson is staying at Brighton for the time being at least.

The Australian goalkeeper has put pen to paper on another short-term contract, after his present



His move from Rangers to Middlesbrough was completed last week.

short in cover at the back and with this window, which means you can't sign anyone until January, we didn't want to leave ourselves short."

★★★★

Millwall have been dealt a devastating blow after a scan revealed that Tim Cahill's knee injury is a damaged cruciate ligament.

The influential midfielder faces a long spell on the sidelines and may well miss the rest of the season after suffering the injury during Saturday's victory over Brighton.

Cahill's serious injury comes shortly after he was linked with big-money moves to Tottenham and Aston Villa and the Australian

deal expired on Sunday. His new contract will run until 8th October.

With Michel Kuipers still recovering from the injury he picked up at Wimbeldon, Petterson has covered for the Dutchman in Albion's last three matches against Walsall, Portsmouth and Millwall - and is expected to continue between the sticks for some time yet.

★★★★

Aussies Brett Holman and Brett Emerton faced off in the Dutch league earlier in the week.

While both players belong to Feyenoord, Holman has been loaned to their satellite club, Excelsior Rotterdam.

Emerton played a full match for Feyenoord while Holman set up Excelsior's only goal in a 4-1 defeat.

★★★★

Livingstone skipper Stuart Lovell declared himself fit to play Rangers - but admitted



Paul Reid: Now with the Bradford City.

his troublesome knee injury will require surgery in the near future.

The former Hibs man has flitted in and out of the Lions' line-up this term due to the persistent problem which has seen fluid periodically build up on his left knee.

The Australian internationalist missed the midweek defeat at Dundee, but Lovell insists he will not be able to avoid going under the knife indefinitely.

He said to sport.scotsman.com: "I would say I've got a very good chance of being involved against Rangers. The knee's had a bit of rest and it's feeling fine again so I should be okay to play.

"I've experienced this problem around 18 months ago when I was at Hibs. I would play games on the Saturday and then rest during the week because of the build-up of fluid, but I can't keep doing that indefinitely.

"I'll need to have an operation sooner rather than later to clean it out, but that will need to be delayed for a couple of weeks because we're a little thin in mid-field with Lee out injured and Cherif picking up a few niggling injuries.

★★★★

Middlesbrough keeper Mark Schwarzer is warning the rest of the Premiership there is much, much more to come from Steve McClaren's new boys.

"In pre-season, we played a few games and did well and the team gelled together very well and very quickly" he told icNewcastle.co.uk

"In the Premier League it's a different ball game and it always takes a little bit of time, especially when you have four or five new players in the team.

"Overall, everybody has been extremely happy with the way things have gelled together.

"But we know as players and as coaches there's a lot more potential to be fulfilled and I don't think we're anywhere near to what we can be yet.

"It's going to take a couple more weeks but I'm sure we can improve on what we've done so far."

★★★★

Newcastle United claimed its first silverware of the year last Sunday afternoon after defeating Parramatta Power one-nil in the inaugural King's Cup held at the King's school, Sydney.

The winning goal came in the 60th minute when Travis Dodd capitalised on a defensive error, which led to the all-important win-



Mark Schwarzer: Delighted with the form of his Middlesbrough side.

ning goal.

The game was played on a bumpy pitch under very hot conditions, but both teams battled well considering the circumstances.

Newcastle coach Ian Crook was delighted with the result saying "It was a difficult game and considering we had a lot of players out, I thought the lads did very well."

New Power coach Nick Theodorakopoulos was upset about the pitch conditions "in which he stated played a big part in the outcome of the match. "It is a shame, the conditions played a big part in the result of the match and it only took one mistake and we were punished."

New United recruit Adam Griffiths picked up the game's man of the match with a solid performance at the back for his new side.

Meanwhile, the Tynan-Eyre Cup - a charitable Victorian Police fund-raising tournament played in memory of murdered policemen Stephen Tynan and Damien Eyre ended in unfortunate scenes after South Melbourne and Preston Lions supporters clashed in ugly riots.

South Melbourne had cruised to a four-nil lead just before the break before fighting broke out in the terraces of Bob Jane Stadium between supporters over the much-disputed Macedonian flag.

Referee Gerry Connelly had no choice but to abandon the match that left soccer the loser at what was supposed to be a fun day for soccer followers in Melbourne.

Post match scenes saw South Melbourne officials confirm that matches against the Preston Lions will no longer happen after the National League club condemned the actions of Lions supporters last Sunday.

While Lions President Bob Josevski blamed Police and security for the melee that broke out during the match that left a sour taste in many soccer followers' mouths.



The victorious Newcastle United side shown celebrating their King's Cup Victory over the Parramatta Power.

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(FRONT PAGE STORY CONTINUED)

Newcastle United led by coach Ian Crook will also hope to do one better than last season by gearing up his chargers for a huge year.

A relatively new squad last season, the club has had a year to develop as a unit, and pending on injuries (which the club is currently suffering in), could do some damage yet again in the National League.

The inclusion of Scotty Thomas and the signing of the two Griffiths brothers (Adam-Ryan) who join Joel will also be a first for the National League - if the three brothers get their chances in starting for the side.

Former Glasgow Rangers backed Northern Spirit will also look towards introducing a new era to their squad with the appointment of ex-Power Assistant Lawrie McKinna.

The club will uncover former Scottish International Ian Ferguson along with former Socceroo veteran Alex Tobin in their side this year, which will be hugely based on promising young talent.

A new era will also begin at once glamour club of Sydney the Marconi Stallions. Led by new mentor Raul Blanco, the Stallions chances of making the top six have been boosted with the signings of Robbie Enes, Tony Perinich and former Gippsland Falcons star Tony Sekulic.

Two-time National League champions the Wollongong Wolves will face an up-hill task in trying to lure the glory days back to the club.

Coach Ron Corry made very little signings this season with the majority of the squad built up of local Premier League players alongside up and coming youngsters.

Corry is adamant that there is no expectation to do well this season, but achieving the best possible results is the South Coast clubs current aim for the year.

Following the Power's steps in terms of new signings, Branko Culina's Sydney United side will also hope to better than their last

season finishing (11th).

Lifted by the recruitment of three prominent Croatian imports, alongside a returning Mark Rudan, youngster Louis Brain and veteran National League campaigner Dave Barrett, United hope to score a major upset in creeping into the final six this season.

Moving away from Sydney, both Victorian clubs have also scored major signings during the off-season.

South Melbourne's new man in charge Danny Wright has acquired the services of shot-stopper Dean Anastasiadis, Zeljko Susa and one of the Blue's favourite sons in Billy Damianos, who is returning from his overseas stint in Greece.

Sommers Street also looks very busy in terms of new faces, the club has had financial difficulties during the off-season break however player/manager Andrew Marth has done well in attracting former Knights stars.

Lubo Lapasansky and Adrian Cervinski have returned to their old homes while promising strikers Henry Fa'Arado and Croatian import Leon Buhic will complete a fearsome strike-force at the Knights.

The 'City of Churches' could see the resurgence of the mighty Adelaide City Force, as the club has also been busy buying new players for the new year.

Italian imports Claudio Pelosi, Gianluca Lagati and former Parma defender Diego Pellegrini will link up with ex-Adelaide star Goran Lozanovski at the Force.

New coach Charlie Villani is hoping to bring back the glory days at the Force but

from reports will not be using their famous Hindmarsh stadium as a home ground.

Venturing onto the Sunshine state of Queensland, the Brisbane Strikers led by former Socceroo John Kosmina have probably been the quietest club in terms of new faces.

Former Socceroo defender Steve Laybutt and

Queensland Premier League product Anthony Roche have been the only new recruitments for 'Kossie' this year - expect youth to play a major role in Kosmina's plans this season.

Finally, across the Trans-Tasman sea, the Football Kingz will be out to ridicule their status as wooden spoon specialist under former All-White coach Ken Dugdale.

The Kiwis will field a fair-

ly new squad with many local players getting their chance in strutting their stuff in the National League.

The possible signing of English star Paul Gascoigne has fallen through however the side has picked up Chilean international Patricio Almendra.

The 2002/03 National League season looks set to be one of the most exciting yet, so Australian soccer follow-

ers hold onto your hats as this league sets to ignite for new and improved heights this season.

FOR FULL NATIONAL LEAGUE PREVIEWS, COACHES COMMENTS AND PLAYERS BOUGHT AND SOLD TURN TO PAGES 15, 16, 17, 18.

Women's Soccer



Applications are being called for the Wollongong Wolves Women's Division coaching positions.

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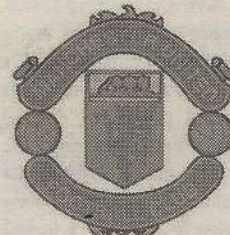
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'THE NEXT KEWELL' SCORES OLYMPIQUE LYON TRIAL

By Ben Moring

PROFILE

Name: Adam Hardy
D.O.B: February 6, 1989
Position: striker/centre midfielder
School: Westfields Sports High School
Favourite players: Maradona, Zinedine Zidane
Favourite NSL player: Damien Mori
Favourite food: Pasta
Favourite music: Rap (Nelly and Ja Rule)
Favourite movie: 'The fast and the furious'
Favourite book: 'It's not about the bike' by cyclist Lance Armstrong

If many prominent soccer personalities are to be believed, then expect thirteen-year-old Adam Hardy to be a superstar in the not-to-distant future.

That is a rather big prediction to make for a boy of his tender age, but the people making these predictions have a sound knowledge of the game, not only in this country, but abroad as well.

One of these people is former NSW representative coach,

David Lee, who now runs the successful 'Winning Edge Football Academy' (WEFA). Lee has the enviable task of scouring over the cream of young talent and has a reasonable track record of producing quality footballers, something one Harry Kewell can testify to.

According to Lee, young Adam Hardy is going to be the next Harry Kewell and he has been reported as saying that Hardy is ahead of where Kewell was at comparative age.

It was at WEFA that scouts from French glamour club, Olympique Lyon spotted Hardy and an initial two-week trial was arranged through club representatives and the young starlet's manager, Alain Barataud.

Barataud is a very well respected manager and has numerous contacts at big clubs all over Europe, especially so in his native France. Barataud is also very excited about his young prodigy and believes he could be something special.

"I have spoken with David Lee and he thinks that Adam is ahead of Harry Kewell at the same age," he said.

"He is very exciting and is quick and can use both left and right foot. I hope he does well overseas as he is very good."

Sometimes in life your destiny is layed out in black-and-white and it seems so for Hardy. His path began in Canberra when he was but four-years-old playing ahead of his age for the Majura under-7s. The next stop was the well-known Canberra Deakin and Coach Zac Barac furthered Adam's education.

However, it was under Oscar Langone's tutelage that set Hardy well upon his way. Langone was a professional player with Argentinian outfit Banfield and also played in the NSL for Canberra City in 1978. Who better, then, to teach the fundamentals to his willing protégé?

Adam then went on to taste representative honours with the ACT Primary Schools Select Team in 1999 and undertook the first of what is sure to be many trips away from home.

Fate, it would seem would play its part in the refinement and blossoming of raw skill. The Hardy family was forced to uproot itself and make the move from Canberra to Sydney for personal reasons.

But from here Adam was offered a spot in the exclusive Westfields Sports High School, which has a proven track record of success (see page 9). Hardy is enjoying life at Westfields and is

extremely keen to lap up the expert tuition offered by coaches Trevor-Morgan and Casey De Bruin.

Father Carlos recognised his son's ample talent and decided to enrol him in Lee's WEFA, a system which has produced obvious results for this youngster.

Should Lyon decide to sign Hardy, it would be the fairytale ending that the whole family wants.

"The longer term plan is to live in France for a number of years," said Carlos Hardy.



The youngster in his AC Milan jersey — maybe a sign of things to come.

"We (Carlos and wife Ann) have a daughter that speaks French and we want our kids to finish their schooling in France."

"We will be in France for a month for the trial and then will probably holiday for a couple of weeks."

At present, Adam does not play for a NSW Soccer Federation side, however there was an offer made by Parramatta Melita Eagles, home of the Macheater United Youth Academy. But with attending Westfields Sports High School and WEFA there was really no time for playing with one of this state's leading clubs.

"Parramatta Melita offered Adam a spot at the club, but he didn't go," stated Carlos Hardy.

"We will go for the trial at Lyon and then when we come back Adam will trial at Blacktown City, (Parramatta) Melita and Olympic (Sharks)."

"Regardless of whether he (Adam) makes Lyon, he will come back and play Premier Youth League next season."

"If he makes Lyon, he will have to wait until next year anyway."

"Adam is more excited about watching AC Milan versus Lyon in the Champions League than the trial at this stage, so there is no pressure."

The senior member of the Hardy household also believes his son possesses certain attributes that will hold him in good stead for future endeavours.

"Adam is a very good team player and has great team spirit," he said.

"He (Adam) is very competitive and has excellent ball skills, he never back chats referees and puts his head down and works, even if he is fouled."

Adam Hardy is anticipating his first national appearance and has targeted a Joey's spot as his first goal. An extremely proud Australian, Hardy wants to pull on the 'green-and-gold' and sees that as the ultimate objective.



Adam Hardy off to France in search of his footballing dream.

His father commented; "Adam would be very proud to play for Australia. He has Australian jerseys hanging up in his room and I have a photo of him in his Australian shirt which says 'Hardy, Australian Joey 2006'."

"He is dying to get into the (Joeys) squad and is very passionate about Australia."

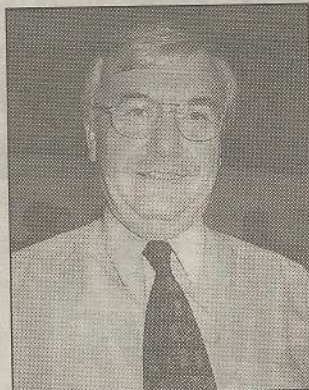
SOCCER CANBERRA WELCOMES THE SPORTS COMMISSION

By Graham Cooke

Soccer Canberra has welcomed the Australian Sports Commission inquiry into the code, but will not support moves to change the body's constitution at this stage, president Steve Doszpot says.

A meeting of junior and senior clubs unanimously backed SC's position after Doszpot said there was a widespread community demand that a credible review into the administration of Soccer Australia be conducted. "The Sports Commission is obviously a logical and credible entity to perform such an external inquiry," he said.

The review committee is headed



Steve Doszpot: President of Soccer Canberra.

by David Crawford, the author of the AFL-Crawford Report, and includes Sports Commission chief executive Mark Peters, former Soccerroo cap-

tain Johnny Warren, business leader Bruce Corlett and lawyer and management consultant Kate Costello.

However, Doszpot said SC will oppose a motion from the Victorian and NSW federations to initiate changes in the constitution, saying they were hastily conceived and had not given the membership adequate time for considered consultation.

"We are strong supporters of the need to revise our constitution, but we believe this should be carried out with a more detailed examination of areas of weakness and ample opportunity for feedback," he said.

"Many of the constituents and stakeholders feel disenfranchised by some aspects of the current constitution."

Kingz deny Gazza link

The Football Kingz have dismissed British press reports which claim that former England star Paul Gascoigne is due to join the club on a short-term deal.

"We have not signed, and are not signing Paul Gascoigne," Kingz chief executive Chris Turner told the New Zealand Herald.

Gascoigne was reported to have agreed to join the Kingz in an attempt to get fit as he bids to rekindle a potential move to the United States with DC United.

The Washington-based Major League Soccer team has told him he must be match fit when he arrives in January.

Turner admitted that two months ago the club was offered a "so-called superstar" to make some guest appearances but he refused to admit whether it was Gascoigne.

Turner said his club was not in a position to be able to sign Gascoigne even for just a few appearances.

Gascoigne, who has been without a club since finishing last season with English first division side Burnley, has apparently turned down an offer to play with lower league English club Carlisle in favour of a three-month stint in the NSL.

Gascoigne's agent, Ian Elliott, said the 35-year-old is awaiting details of an offer from the Kingz.

"It's an ongoing situation. We have been approached by a team who play in the Australian professional league based in New Zealand for Paul to go and play on a short-term basis for them," Elliott told BBC radio.

"It's not a long-term contract, it would only be for two or three games. It is something we are looking at but it's by no means finalised yet."



'Gazza' will not be signed by the Kingz this season according to Chief Executive of the Kiwi side Chris Turner.

"It's a beautiful country to visit and it's something we are giving serious consideration to."

Tony Vidmar joins Middlesbrough

The future of Soccerroos stalwart Tony Vidmar is finally settled after the defender signed with English Premier League club Middlesbrough.

Luke Wilkshire and youth team goalkeeper Brad Jones at the club.

"We are delighted to bring Tony on board because when Gianluca Festa left the club, we

were a bit short in cover at the back and with this window, which means you can't sign anyone until January, we didn't want to leave ourselves short," said McClaren.



Tony Vidmar now at Middlesbrough.

Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren confirmed that he had been able to bring Vidmar to Boro after the closure of the transfer window because he was out of contract with former club, Scottish giants Rangers.

Vidmar had been trialing with the club for some time. He joins fellow Aussies Mark Schwarzer,

VILLANI IN GOOD COMPANY

Charley Villani joins other famous former Adelaide City players, John Perin, Bobby Ferguson, John Nyskohus and Zoran Matic in progressing from player to the NSL coaching ranks.

Season 2002-2003 will be Villani's debut as solo mentor, but he was assistant to Matic for the 1992-93 season.

Backed by the experience of playing 259 NSL games and scoring 59 goals, Villani became an over night success

at State League coaching level by taking Para Hills to the 1995 minor premiership, when it was a beaten grand finalist.

Further coaching plaudits were won with Birkalla (now Galaxy) when Villani

was a S A S F Premier League Coach of the Year in seasons 1997 and 1998.

Birkalla was Federation Cup finalist in 1997 and it won the Premier League championship in 1998.



Power to host Glory in Opening Duel

By Daniel Kuziow

A new season always brings with it a fresh wave of optimism and hope for a successful campaign.

Both Parramatta Power and the Perth Glory have every right to feel good about

the 2002/2003 NSL season with their respective sides two of the strongest in Australia's elite competition.

Under new coach Nick Theodorakopoulos Parramatta have recruited no fewer than twelve new players, all eager to assert themselves on this year's competition.

Much will be made of the



Power's coach
Nick Theodorakopoulos.

new strike force of Pablo Cardozo and Royce Brownlie. Towards the latter part of last season, Brownlie was a revelation scoring eight goals in only for games for Marconi while Cardozo



Glory's coach
Mitch d'Avray.

meanwhile was being scouted by several NSL clubs for his deadly finishing before being snapped up by the Power.

For the Glory meanwhile, past seasons have been a case of coming so close then stumbling at the final hurdle. No Australian soccer fan doubts the quality of Mich D'Avray's side and the

recent additions to the club will only serve to strengthen their prospects of title glory in season 2002/2003.

Saturday night's opening match between the two sides will be the ideal chance for both sides to take stock of their situation.

The Glory had a busy pre-season competing in the

Curtain University Shield and the WA Charity Shield, while the Power concluded their pre-season work out by hosting the inaugural Kings Cup against Newcastle United.

Interestingly, this match will be the first time former Perth man Brad Maloney runs out against his former

team after the Power pulled off a major coup in the off season.

Enjoy the spectacle that is sure to be match of the round for the opening of season 2002/2003 when Perth Glory ventures to Parramatta Stadium to play Parramatta Power.

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Danny Wright – Building a Championship Team

South Melbourne's new coach Danny Wright is experiencing significant change in his life, with a new job, a new week old second child, relocating to a new state, a new house and the same high expectations and pressures encountered by all previous head coaches at South. On the dawn of the new season Danny Wright spoke with ABSW's Brendon Davis.

BD – What is your NSL experience?

DW – As a 15 year old I joined the Brisbane Lions. After a season there I joined the AIS for their inaugural year. I had a season in the UK with Chelsea before returning to Australia for the successful youth under 20 trials for Mexico in 1983.

I continued with the Brisbane Lions before joining South as a 21 year old for seven great seasons which included 1 championship, one premiership, a national cup and the team finishing in the top six for six of the seven years.

When I returned to Queensland the Brisbane were formed so I joined them. I ended up playing for 5 seasons with my last game there being the 1997 grand final win.

BD – And your coaching pedigree ...

DW – I started with Brisbane City in the State League in 2000. We won a championship in both

my first and second years. Following this I was the Queensland State Coach where I secured my senior license.

BD – What's your target for the season?

DW – "The top six is ultimately the minimum requirement for the team. We must position ourselves within the top six for the season to be a success".

We are confident we have the players and are confident we can get them playing well enough for this.

But my immediate focus is on the first game and while it's a cliché, football is really a week to week proposition. For now I simply have to get the team bonding and working well together.

BD – Into your squad is?

DW – Anastasiadis, Susa, and Michael Baird. Also Dave Clarkson is like a new player we didn't have last season. And watch a few of the younger players step up, Massimo, Pacey, Toli and Ray Sekulovski in particular.

BD – Out is Boutsianis, Bell, Bacak, Sabljak and Mancevski correct?

DW – And I'm still considering Santilli. I told him he is leaving his run very late. We have 19 very good players on our list now.

To develop a squad for the future you must persevere with young boys with a blend of experience, which is what we have.

Youthful exuberance is a particularly valuable commodity.

BD – What will we notice as different at South?

DW – You'll see a team evolve combining a mix of youth and experience that is professional on and off the park.

BD – There is great pressure on any South Coach

DW – I'm preparing a team to win a championship.

I'm prepared for the pressure, its great being involved with a big club rather than worrying each week about your survival. I expect the pressure and I'll cope with this.

BD – Who will be the big improvers?

DW – Through pre season, Mass, Toli and Vinnie Lia. Mass and Vinnie were outstanding in Adelaide (under 20 championship). And Clarke (Dave Clarkson) has turned the clock back 5 years. Peter Buljan has the ability, if he can deliver on match day he'll really make a difference.

BD – Critics say the team is too old?

DW – I'm very excited with the squad. We have a great balance between youth and experience with the older players being good role models on and off the park.

I played in two NSL Championship winning teams; both these teams contained a blend of youth and experience.

BD – Other than South, who is the team likely to win the Championship

DW – Perth have been very impressive in the transfer market. And their preparation has been very good with a nice overseas tour and they are hungry for some silverware.

Olympic and Newcastle also look good. Newcastle are really well coached and look to have a good squad.

Every year there is a dark

horse, this year it may well be Adelaide.

BD – What was the funniest moment in pre-season

DW – "When I arrived in Melbourne a particular Greek restaurant told me I was always welcome – anytime. When I went there, there was only one person having a meal, he was in the corner almost finished eating".

That person was Eddie Krncevic. "I went over and we had a good friendly chat".

BD – What's your pre game routine?

DW – Any routine I want to have is disrupted by the kids. But I'm always tense and usually end up having a fight with my wife. I think a pre match fight with her is good luck.

BD – Who is your favourite European Club, if it's not Birmingham City justify it!

DW – Chelsea in the EPL. I played there, have an Italian wife and there's the strong Italian connection.

BD – What's Steve Isifidis funniest moment through Pre Season.

DW – Snickers and laughs and laughs and laughs. "There's so many stories I could recite. Iossa has the most unbelievable excuses for being late to or missing



Dave Clarkson has been in great form during pre-season for South.

training.

One day we were doing a run around the lake and Iossa calls on my mobile to tell me his wife had broken her ankle falling down stairs. After a few days her ankle had fully recovered from the break.

We all knew Iossa just pushed her down the stairs to get out of the lake run.

BD – What's your closing message to South fans?

DW – I want to see you all out there at BJS. We need you as a member irrespective of what's going on with Soccer Australia or what ever – most important is to buy a membership.



Danny Wright: Will try and bring back the glory days at South Melbourne.

RON CORRY: RE-BUILDING THE WOLVES UP ONCE AGAIN

By Joe Russo

After a rather disappointing 2001/02 campaign, the former national champions in the previous two years have embarked on a rebuilding year. A combination of youth and experience will form the basis of the Wolves side.

Stuart Young, David Cervinski, Alex Castro, Robbie Stanton and David Huxley are the 'veterans' in the squad. Coach Ron Corry, now in his third season in charge of the Wolves, will be relying on this quintet.

"They are the experienced players and four of them were part of the dual Premiership team," he said.

Corry, the former Soccerroo goalkeeper, has already experi-

enced the highs and lows of coaching. In his first season in charge two years ago he guided Wollongong to their second NSL Championship.

A memorable victory over South Melbourne at Parramatta Stadium proved to many that Wollongong's victory over Perth Glory in the previous year's Grand Final at Subiaco Oval in Perth was no fluke.

Wollongong though couldn't make it the treble last season. Right from the beginning it was fairly clear that they were not going to make it.

"Things didn't fall for us last year but that is all behind us now. We have a very young squad and all the boys are very keen to get on with it."

So just what is Corry expecting this time around? "I obviously hope that we can finish in

the top six, but it will be more of a building year.

"We have no real expectations at all. We aim to consolidate and build that base for years to come."

Wollongong have not splashed out instead preferring to sign players that have proven themselves when trailing with the club. Corry has always been known as an astute judge of young talent when he sees it.

The new recruits for the Wolves include Shane Lyons, the son of Manly rugby league legend Cliff, Matthew Galea and Andrew Crews.

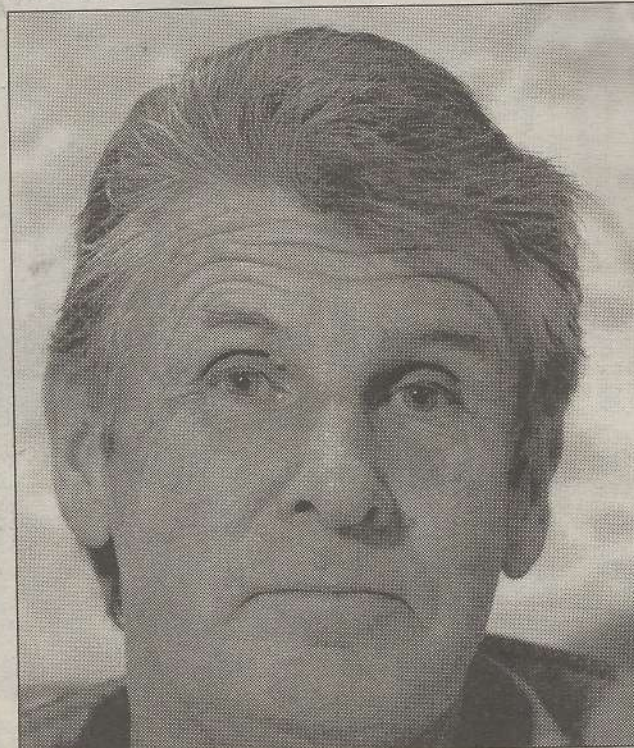
Lyons had a stint with the now defunct Canberra Cosmos, while Galea is a former Sydney Olympic junior who has also played with the Malta Under 21 national team.

"Both were impressive in trials for us so we signed them up," Corry said.

Crews, the former Sydney Utd and Parramatta Power custodian, returns to the NSL after

a successful stint with APIA Leichhardt Tigers in the NSW State League.

Crews was also voted as the Tigers' Player of the Year as judged by coach Les De Celis.



Ron Corry

Dino Mennillo is also expected to re-join his former team when he recovers from his injury.

The reliance on youth at the club will certainly throw the spotlight onto youngsters such as 18 year old Dustin Wells and 16 year old Jacob Timpano. According to Corry young Timpano has been very impressive in games so far.

Added into the mix in the Wolves squad are also Liam Austin and Naum Sekulovski, both of whom are relatively young players.

However, on the downside for the Wolves they have lost Greg Sharland to Charlton Athletic after he was successful in a trial there.

All in all it should be an interesting side for Wollongong this season as the club prepares for the long term. The emphasis on youth is a positive sign for the team and soccer in general.

ADELAIDE CITY TO ABANDON STADIUM



Hindmarsh Stadium is almost certain to lose its only full-time tenant, the Adelaide City Force Soccer Club, raising serious questions about its future.

The club, one of Australia's most successful, said it would no longer accept the financial

conditions imposed by the South Australian Soccer Federation and the State Government.

Instead, it was hoping to play at Norwood Oval from next season.

Adelaide City Force said it was negotiating with Norwood Football Club to use the

oval after the SANFL season finished.

The move is despite an agreement between Soccer Australia and the State Government that all NSL matches be held at the new \$41 million stadium for the next 20 years.

It is understood financial

concerns relate to the provision of free seats, corporate boxes and revenue from catering.

The Force must pay \$105,600 for 12 regular season games at home while the deal with Norwood would result in it paying just \$20,000 a year to play at Norwood Oval.

Adelaide City Force president Bob D'Ottavi said the club had no issue with the stadium "but we've got to have a better deal".

He said a deal with Norwood had not been finalised but it would be good to be associated with another club.

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KINGZ FUTURE SECURE

By Daniel Kuziow

The Football Kingz' immediate future in the NSL looks secure despite many Australian clubs calling for their axing from the national competition.

NSL chief executive Stefan Kamasz said that provided the Kingz meet the conditions of their participation agreement their short-term future was assured.

"The Kingz have an agreement for the next two seasons," Kamasz told The New Zealand Herald.

"As long as the Kingz remain solvent and meet the conditions of the agreement they need have no concerns."

"I feel the Kingz are necessary for soccer in New Zealand and indeed the whole region."

The argument put up by some Australian clubs that the Kingz should be kicked out, especially when the result of the recent Oceania Nations Cup is considered has no bearing on the board of SA.

"Rather than taking that attitude, the clubs should be calling on Soccer Australia to ensure they put out a team good enough to beat New Zealand."

Kamasz said that while the Kingz could look forward to the next two seasons even if the NSL was reduced from the present 13 teams, it was important to look beyond the club's initial five-year licence.

Currently, the Kingz are in a better position than the twelve other NSL sides having secured television rights with Sky Television. The Australian based NSL sides have no broadcast partner on

the books at the moment.



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BROWNLIE SNUBS GLORY FOR MORE POWER

By Mark Stavroulakis

The Parramatta Power juggernaut continued its signing spree right before the transfer deadline closure last Sunday by securing the services of lively striker Royce Brownlie.

Known as one of the best finishers of the game in this country, the 22-year-old signed a two-year contract with the Power, amidst reports that the former Marconi star was set to sign with Mich d'Avray's Perth Glory.

"We saw an opportunity and we took it. Royce is a talented player who has a lot to offer the Power this season," said coach Nick Theodorakopoulos.

Meanwhile across the country, Glory coach Mich d'Avray was left contemplating on what could have been a good signing in terms of another strong attacker at the club.

"Good luck to the boy, we can't force anyone to come to the club. After we flew him over for trials, took him on tour to Malaysia and then verbally agreed to a deal, the decent thing would have been for him to phone us."

Royce was quick to reply that signing for the Glory would have meant less game time for last year's Minor Premiers.

"There are two great strikers (Mori-Despotovski) ahead of me at the Perth Glory and very little opportunity to start

games. The Power made me an offer and I signed."

During last season's National League, Brownlie managed to bag 11 goals for the Stallions and in those scored, created National League history by scoring eight consecutive times in four consecutive games.



The deadly Power duo of Brownlie and Cardozo.

Towards the end of last season, Brownlie cut his ties with the Stallions and ventured off to England in search of an overseas contract.

This saw his trials span from Sheffield Wednesday to where he unfortunately

broke his nose during his first trial match at the club, to the more recent trial at Oldham.

Deals were hard to come by at these clubs as coaches acknowledged Brownlie's potential, however thought he wasn't any better than what they had in their current squads.

Brownlie will now join another Power new recruit in Pablo Cardozo up front and 'jockey' Johnny Buonavoglia in what look's set to be a formidable strike-force for the squad.

Finally, in other Power news, the club



Peter Zorbas is ready to take on his new role at the Power this season.

signed up its final player of the season in former Olympic Sharks midfielder Peter Zorbas.

The exciting 23-year-old was released from the Sharks last season and spent 10 weeks trialling with Sydney United before signing with Parramatta last week.

Zorbas' transfer came when former Power midfielder Lubo Lapsansky decided to part-company with Parramatta by re-joining with the Melbourne Knights for this season.

"We quickly moved to secure Peter, a known commodity in the NSL, after Lubo's move to the Melbourne Knights

was finalised. He is a very mobile midfielder with a point to prove and someone who will relish his opportunity to prove he has the ability to play at this level," said coach Theodorakopoulos.

"Zorby", an Olympic junior has seen this chance as a lifeline as the young promising star was contemplating a move to the Singapore League.

"Nick has thrown me a lifeline that I thought I wouldn't get. From what I have experienced so far, the Power is a very professional club and there is no doubting this team will finish in the top four," concluded Zorbas.



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Premier League Review By Glenn Davis

QUEENSLAND LIONS SECURE GRAND-FINAL BERTH

By Glenn Davis

A golden goal from substitute midfielder Jamie Lowdnes put Queensland Lions into the Brisbane premier league grand final with a thrilling 2-1 win over Gold Coast in the major semi final at Lions Stadium on Sunday.

Lowdnes inspired effort came in the 10th minute of extra time after the classic semi-final confrontation was deadlocked 1-1 after normal time.

Lowdnes' match winner, off a cross from Reece Tollenaere, came after he was injured in a tackle only five minutes earlier.

Lions, Queensland's largest and wealthiest club, are now on track of repeating history if it wins the grand final as the semi-final encounter also doubled as the South-East Queensland Cup final, a knockout competition among all Brisbane divisions.

Lions last took out the treble of the premiership, grand final and Queensland Cup eleven years ago under former coach John Sime.

Current coach Miron Bleiberg was in charge of Queensland's strongest club when they won the premiership-grand final double in 1996 and was at the helm when Lions last won a grand final four years ago.

Lions had a fight on its hands from the opening whistle with the game in the balance right to the end.

After a scoreless first half Steve Dawe

gave Lions a 1-nil lead he finished off a strong Lions build-up with a neat goal in the 60th minute.

It took the Gold Coast until five minutes from normal time to draw level when Daniel Fung found the net when he finished off a cross from Joe Morris on the right.

Bleiberg praised Gold Coast for a strong performance but believed his side just shaded the visitors.

"I thought we deserved the win. There hasn't been much between us and the Gold Coast all season and although we won the premiership by eleven points the Gold Coast showed again they're not far behind us," Bleiberg said.

"We didn't play that well but does that mean they didn't let us play well or was it just us?"

"We'll see in the grand final which is the right answer if the Gold Coast win next weekend."

Gold Coast coach Ken Lindsay was thankful his side escaped injury-free and is confident his side can reverse the result if it makes the grand final.

"It was a tight game. There was nothing in it and it went down to the wire," Lindsay said.

"Lions got the breaks and the bounce of the ball and took their chances and we didn't."

"We've got to go on with it now. Lions and ourselves are the top two sides and we deserve to be in the grand final and we owe it to ourselves."



Steve Dawe gave the Lions the lead with a great goal during the start of the second half.

Gold Coast will now meet Taringa Rovers in the preliminary final at home next Saturday following its tough 3-1 win over North Star at Jack Speare Park on Saturday.

Lindsay is expecting another tough game from Taringa who have a victory over them on their home turf this season.

"I saw Taringa beat North Star and they'll be very competitive," he said.

Backing up after it won its delayed mid-week semi-final win over Ipswich Knights, Taringa continued to defy the experts grinding out a hard fought tussle after leading North Star 2-1 at halftime.

Taringa grabbed a shock 1-nil lead on the half hour after a stunning 30-metre pile-driver from Grant Dickens, rated by many as the goal of the season.

The home side made it 2-nil, ten minutes later when Raja Asyen broke clear on the left and chipped inside for Steve Unsworth who laid off in front of goal for Luke Morley to slot home.

With their backs to the wall, North Star hit back to reduce the lead just before the interval when 17-year-old midfielder Seb Thatchell scored following a corner.

A controversial 75th minute penalty from Craig Slaughter put the game beyond North Star's reach and set up Taringa with a preliminary final showdown with Gold Coast.

North Star coach Bobby Hamilton believed Taringa were the better side and deserved victory but did not agree with referee Jon Peacock's penalty decision.

"I didn't think it was a penalty. Mark Greer played the ball first in a challenge and then the Taringa player fell over," Hamilton said.

"But I'm not disappointed. It was a typical finals game but at the end of the day the better team won."

Hamilton said the first half hour was very tight until Taringa broke the deadlock.

"There was nothing in it after half an hour but Taringa's first goal was a screamer but they only got it after we failed to clear," he said.

"We weren't in a good position being

down 2-nil, but we hit back just before the break which gave us some hope."

Taringa coach John Ogden believed the sudden-death final was tough for both sides, especially after his side suffered a serious blow to its finals campaign on match eve when midfielder Scott Robertson left for a New Zealand holiday.

"We've been decimated by injuries this year and then on the day before the semi, Scotty had a long standing booking for a New Zealand holiday which he had to take," Ogden said.

"He could be back if we make it to the grand final, but by then I'm not sure if he'd get back into the side."

"We're 90 minutes away from the grand final now and the boys have done a tremendous job and the key has been their committed and working hard for each other."

In a shock announcement after the game, Hamilton revealed his future at North Star was in limbo.

"No-one at the club has spoken to me about coaching next season," he said.

"I'd like to coach again but I don't know what the club's commitment is going to be like."

"Things might change there next year and I won't know what's going on until I've spoken to the club."

Taringa Rovers earned their shot at North Star in the knockout semi-final after they downed Ipswich Knights 3-1 in the postponed match from last week at Spencer Park.

Taringa had led Ipswich 2-nil a half time at home last weekend before the game was abandoned following a halftime downpour.

Unlike the first clash, Taringa and Ipswich were deadlocked 1-1 at halftime after Knights' striker Richard Hilli cancelled out a Kick Kuyper's early goal 15th minute goal.

Midfielder Tristen Frazer advanced Taringa into the clash with North Star scoring direct from a corner for a 2-1 lead midway through the second half before a free-kick ten minutes from time caught a deflection into the net.

Taringa's victory over Ipswich was the first time they had beaten Ipswich this season after losing 2-nil and 1-nil in the fixtures.

RESULTS

PREMIER LEAGUE ELIMINATION AND QUALIFYING FINALS

TARINGA ROVERS 3

(G Dickens, R Asyen, C Slaughter)

NORTH STAR 1

(Thatchell)

QLD LIONS 2

(S Dawe, J Lowdnes)

V GOLD COAST CITY 1

(D Fung)

DIVISION 1

QUALIFYING AND ELIMINATION FINALS

PINE RIVERS 4

SOUTHS UTD 1

BUNDABERG WAVES 5

MITCHELTON 1



A delighted Miron Bleiberg will now wait for the result between Gold Coast and Taringa this week to find out who their opponents will be in the QLD Premier League Grand-Final.

PREMIER LEAGUE - Final

Standings

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1. QUEENSLAND LIONS	22	20	0	2	65	11	62
2. GOLD COAST CITY	22	16	3	3	67	21	51
3. BRISBANE CITY	22	15	4	3	38	21	48
4. TARINGA ROVERS	22	11	6	4	34	27	37
5. IPSW KNIGHTS	22	10	7	5	34	25	35
6. NORTH STAR	22	10	9	3	37	29	33
7. WYNNUM	22	8	11	3	27	39	27
8. THE GAP	22	4	10	8	25	50	20
9. TWIMBA RAIDERS	22	4	11	7	20	32	19
10. ROCHEDALE ROVERS	22	3	13	6	26	45	15
11. EASTERN SUBURBS	22	3	15	4	20	46	13
12. MT GRAVATT	22	2	16	4	14	61	10

FIRST DIVISION - Final Standings

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1. PINE RIVERS UTD	26	21	3	2	72	20	65
2. SOUTHS UTD	26	17	6	3	62	28	54
3. MITCHELTON	26	14	7	5	67	37	47
4. BUNDABERG WAVES	26	13	7	6	57	37	45
5. CAPALABA	26	12	7	7	62	40	43
6. ROCKLEA UTD	26	14	11	1	56	50	43
7. UNI OF QLD	25	9	7	9	49	40	36
8. INALA CITY	26	10	10	6	51	48	36
9. NEWMARKET	26	11	12	3	37	42	36
10. ALBANY CREEK	26	8	13	5	31	66	29
11. REDLANDS UTD	26	6	14	6	41	64	24
12. BRISBANE OLYMPIC UNI	25	6	15	4	19	53	22
13. GRANGE THISTLE	26	4	17	5	32	72	17
14. SLACKS CREEK	26	3	19	4	26	65	13

QUEENSLAND SEMI-FINALS

Gold Coast City

v

Taringa Rovers

(winner meets Queensland Lions in the QLD Premier League Grand-Final)

WESTFIELDS SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

By Ben Moring

If you were a parent with a talented footballer and wanted to combine education with great sports tuition, then there is no doubt that Westfields Sports High School would be first priority in your decision.

This is because Westfields Sports High School was the first of its type in this country and has set a fine standard in producing players that have burst onto the local and international scene.

Best known of ex-students is current Socceroo and Leeds United star, Harry Kewell. And there can be no hiding the immense pride that the school holds for their expupil, with the website fairly detailed as to Harry's prowess and achievements.

Another ex-student is currently plying his trade with NSL side Sydney United and is also giving back to the school, which helped him make the grade,

Nahuel Arrarte.

Arrarte is the assistant to talented coach Trevor Morgan, who was responsible for the success and championships that the school has also won, as well as developing blossoming young players.

Of Morgan and his role as assistant, Arrarte stated: "I have known Trevor for a while as I was a student at the school and we kept in touch, even after I left."

"He approached me and asked me to join the set-up and I was more than happy to do so."

"He (Morgan) is a great worker with the young kids, he has a real understanding of their needs and as such, has seen great success of Westfields Sports High."

"A lot of ex-students have gone on to play at the top level, some making NSL and others playing overseas. Trevor understands what kids need to make it and he knows his players."

Some of the better-known players who have

graduated from the High School include Les Pogliocomi, Jacob Burns, Jason Culina, Alex Brosque, Jim Elaberon, and Christian Cevinini amongst others who are easily

placed to make comment upon the perceived strengths of the school.

"Westfields was the first sports high school in Australia and therefore set the standards as compared

this school will continue to set the standards and keep on improving."

"This school (Westfields) produced the youngest ever Socceroo, Harry Kewell and youngest

mic wise as well as with soccer."

And when pressed on students that he thinks will be the next generation of stars, Arrarte offered a wise insight.

"There are a lot of great players here at present, but they are still young," he states. "A lot of things can happen from Kings Park when they are 10 or 11-years-old up to when they are 18."

"A lot have potential, but we'll have to wait to see how far they'll get."

"At 16 or 17-years-old, your priorities in life change and some are concerned more with education or girlfriends."

"So it's the ones that want to get there, that push that little bit extra that will make it."

Arrarte himself has been injured of late and is keen

to make the start of the new NSL campaign and to contribute to what he and United hopes will be a season of progression.

"I played 20 minutes in a warm-up game against Spirit," he said. "And half a game against a local side, Liverpool Bossy."

"The operation was a success and I am ahead of schedule in a lot of areas and if all things go well, then I'm hopeful of being there for the first game of the season."

"The team is looking well, working very hard."

"We have had a very hard pre-season and signed a few players and that will strengthen the squad."

"We have done well in pre-season, but the season is different than pre-season. But if we work hard, then we should do well and press for a 'Top 6' spot."



Nahuel Arrarte and Trevor Morgan shown coaching hopeful Australian stars at Westfields Sports High School.

recognisable to the Australian soccer community.

As a product of Westfields, Arrarte is well

with other schools," he said.

"Now the other schools are aiming to be like Westfields, but I think that

ever Matilda, Kelly Golebowski.

"And furthermore, the school has had so many successful students acade-

Northern Spirit Snap Up MacAllister

By Mark Stavroulakis

Former U17 Joey and current U23 international Dylan MacAllister has agreed to a two-year-deal with Lawrie McKinna's Northern Spirit side last week.

The 21-year-old put pen to paper after returning from Swiss First Division side FC Aarau where the unlucky youngster failed to agree to some terms given my the club.

"I was gone for about three weeks and it was initially a 10 day trial period so

they liked what they saw and offered me a contract. I did not agree with some of the issues explained in the contract and thought that it would be a better option to return to Australia and play in the National League for a further season or two, and hopefully get other clubs wanting me in Europe."

The standard in Switzerland is pretty good, I guess the main clubs there are FC Basel and Grasshoppers Zurich who always seem to make the huge European competitions."

Returning back from

Switzerland, Dylan made his mind up in selecting the Spirit to be his team for the next two seasons.



"The choice to go to Spirit was for a few reasons. I've been a Spirit follower since they were introduced to the National League a few years back. The training and home ground is also much closer to home."

The offer was also very good and hard to refuse, I think it was also time for a change of environment and I know this step was a good one for my career. I've been training with the guys for a few weeks now prior to departing for Europe. Now its business as usual and hope to do some damage for my new club this year."

Starring for the Sharks for the past few seasons, MacAllister built a good relationship with the side he first started at in terms of youth football.

"I really enjoyed my time at Olympic, it was an amazing feeling winning the Final last season in Perth. I left the club on good terms, I got on with Gary and the guys and I know there will always be a soft spot for the side. I know going back to Shark Park will be a weird feeling, however I'll do the best that I can for my new club."

One thing I'd like to say is to thank the staff and fans at the Sharks, my decision to leave Olympic were for personal reasons but I know that throughout my footballing career, the Sharks will always have a special place for me."



Dylan MacAllister has signed for Northern Spirit for the next two seasons.

SOCCER GENERAL MANAGER WANTED

Applications are now invited from experienced persons to act as the General Soccer Manager of the **STANMORE HAWKS SOCCER CLUB.**

Must possess Administrative qualities. Applications stating experience and qualifications to be forwarded to:

**The Secretary,
STANMORE HAWKS SOCCER CLUB
56-58 Stanmore Road,
STANMORE. NSW. 2048.**



APPLICATIONS CLOSING DATE FRIDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2002

For further information, please contact:
John on Mobile No: **04147 88897**

**6 — A — SIDE
MINI FIELD SOCCER**
EDWARDS PARK
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REGISTER A TEAM NOW

CHILDREN & ADULTS	
MONDAYS	U8, U9, U10 — Combined Division Womens Open Mens Over 35
TUESDAYS	U6, U7 — Combined Division Mens Open Mens Over 35
THURSDAYS	U11, U12, U13 — Combined Division U14, U15, U16 — Combined Division

Registration Fees include, full team playing strip — shirt, shorts and socks, player accident insurance and referee fees.

Competition commences Mid October

For Team Nomination Forms Contact

• Albert Guarascio	Business — 9564 6232 Mobile — 0413 529 115
• Larry Musolino	Mobile — 0412 500 096 Home — 9702 6611

**Closing Date — Team Nominations
— Sunday 29 Sept '02**

**St George Saints
2003 NSW Youth League
Coaching Positions U/11 — U/17**

We seek applications from suitably qualified coaches (preferably with Senior Licence accreditation) for positions that are available in our 2003 Youth League program.

St George is undertaking an extensive re-structure of its Youth league Program for next season with a significant focus on Talent Identification and progression through to the senior program.

Applications close on Friday 20th September 2002.
Interested applicants are asked to mail their resume including a photocopy for their coaching accreditation to:

**St George Soccer Association
Att: Manny Spanoudakis
P.O. Box 347,
Hurstville B.C.N.S.W. 1481**

Letters to the Editor

I'M EXCITED!

Dear Sir,

With less than a week to go until the initial kick off of the National Soccer League, I'm really excited about what to expect during this new season.

Amidst all the problems the sport has faced during the last season, in my opinion this year will see many teams cause major upsets. The Glory in my mind seems the favourites to take out the league this year but with the Sharks recruiting Joel Porter last week, they are in with a chance as well.

Clubs such as the Power, Adelaide City, Sydney United and even Marconi could also do damage in reaching the top six at the end of the year.

I for one am in anticipation for the first match, I just can't wait for start of the National League season - that and the hopeful start of the Serie A as well!

Robert Ciampi, Rockdale, NSW.

CLUBS TO CONTROL THE NSL?

Dear Sir,

I think the idea of getting clubs to control the NSL is ludicrous, how can the clubs, who barely have any money to help their own be financially stable enough to run the league.

I think, if, like so many people are currently witnessing that the S.A. board change with a new and more improved committee, then that would be the most liable thing to do.

Once we get the major sponsor up and running I think it's going to be okay, but with the clubs themselves running the league, I'm sorry to say that if that happens, the league is doomed for good.

Steve Manson, Pine Rivers, QLD.

Killer Cardozo!

Dear Sir,

How great it is to see the Power recruiting well for the new National League season. Words could not express my delight after the club announced last week their signing of Pablo Cardozo!



Pablo Cardozo.

He is a quality striker indeed and will score a bag full of goals in this seasons National League.

I am very exciting about the clubs prospects this year and hope that with the players bought to the club, the guys can get their act together in playing some good football.

I've watched the side play a couple of friendly matches and have to say that all the side needs a bit

more time in developing into a classy National League outfit.

Frank Crisco, Merrylands, NSW.

Great Coverage On Ned Zelic

Dear Sir,

Your exclusive interview on Ned Zelic was a great scoop of the paper.

I still regard Zelic as the best soccer talent to come out of this country. He was really the first player to go to Europe and put Australian soccer on the map.

Yet in his most recent years, he has been criticised for his supposed refusal to play for the Socceroos.

The included article makes it quite clear that Zelic is willing to play once again for the Socceroos - the only thing stopping him from doing so is his personal clash with coach Frank Farina who shouldn't be there anyway (but that is another separate issue).

Surely as well, a club in Europe would pick up Ned. Playing in Japan is somewhat of an anti climax for a player who should be at the peak of his game. He has matched it with some of the best players in Europe and with some of the largest clubs, yet can now only find himself playing in Japan. Well, at least the money there is good.

So, while on the topic of Ned Zelic, I say this; your interview gave a great insight into the man as he now stands and will surely interest will once again be sparked in this outstanding player.

Garry Rowes, Ipswich, QLD.



GIVE ZELIC A GO

Dear Sir,

After reading your exclusive interview on Ned Zelic last week it has become more evident that the classy midfielder does want to play for the Socceroos.

I say shame on Farina for not pushing him to play for the green and gold's!

He is an inspiration to the team, with him in midfield, it would certainly turn the squad into a much classier outfit!

Why are we subject to using Paul Okon and even giving him captaincy in expense of leaving a star such as Zelic out.

Fair is fair, he turned his back on his country for private reasons, but with coach Farina who could blame him?

Hopefully we will see Ned in an Aussie shirt sooner rather than later!

Ronald Beets, Greenvale, VIC.



Ned Zelic

THE WOES OF A SCOTSMAN

Dear Sir,

I just can't express my disbelief about the sad state of the Scottish International side at the moment.

2-2 with the Faroe Islands really done it for me!

The days of the lads playing for the jersey are finally over in my opinion.

When you have captain Paul Lambert threatening to retire from international football if the side doesn't manage to lift itself up then what do you expect?

Berti Vogts has also shown that for a man that has done a few things in his footballing career, helping Scotland progress through as an international power in football has yet to be seen.

Just expressing my view that I think Scotland will endure a hard few years unless we get rid of Vogts and hire a true Scottish coach - someone that will bleed for the country if need be!

Richard McMahon, Dolls Point, NSW.

OLYMPIC OR POWER TO WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP THIS SEASON

Dear Sir,

Both the Olympic Sharks and Parramatta Power look good bets to take out this season's NSL title.

After earlier this year signing up George Souris, and most recently snaring Joel Porter, Gary Phillips' squad looks very strong indeed. We saw last year the things this team were capable of and I for one was not surprised that they won the NSL title over in Perth. Gary Phillips has instilled an aura into the side that makes them very hard to beat and the addition of these two players will make them even harder to beat.

For the Power meanwhile, well it's their last chance really isn't it? With huge backing from the Leagues club big things have been expected from them but have failed quite miserably each season.

Now however with the acquisition of their new coach and a whole list of new players, to replace dad's army brought by David Mitchell from Sydney United, the future looks bright. Pablo Cardozo will be the most settled he has been for several seasons because he will have the right players supplying him with the right service. Up front, Power will be very quick and if the midfielders namely Brad Maloney and Kosta Salapadidis can exploit their pace then the opposition better watch out.

At the back was where the Power had major problems under Mitchell, but with a few fresh defenders joining, they look very secure. While it is good to have an experienced back four, nothing beats the raw enthusiasm of a young defender.

So my money is on these two teams. I would be very surprised to find out come the middle of 2003 that they have not done well.

Bill Pauleta, Dee Why, NSW.



What's the fuss about the review committee?

Dear Sir,

After reading the article in your paper last week on page six that explained the inn's and out's of the soccer review committee and its terms of reference, I want to say why are people complaining?

I think the people picked to review the code are great, you have good old Johnny Warren, an ex-Socceroo, someone whose knowledge on the game is second to none.

Then you have talented and well-known people such as David Crawford, Bruce Corlett, Kate Costello and Mark Peters all people whom hold good spots in the business or financial sectors of this country.

There should be no complaints about the review committee, I guess we just have to wait and see now until next April when the whole truth about what money was lost and where it went to becomes revealed!

John Pancev, Preston, VIC.



Can Anybody Control S.A.?

Dear Sir,

What I find quite remarkable out of the whole situation regarding the board of Soccer Australia and the independent review committee is that neither party can seem to control the rebel stakeholders of SA.

I mean firstly, Ian Knop told them to pipe down or basically face his wrath, but it was only a week later that Knop and his board nearly resigned. Such are their inadequacies that it appeared that when the powerful state and territory soccer federations banded together against Knop and SA, they had little chance to toe the line.

Most recently, David Kemp the MP has come out and said that the stakeholders will abide by any recommendations put forward by the panel. My understanding of a review panel is that the recommendations are taken on board, implemented and nothing more is said. But for Mr Kemp to come out even before the findings have concluded and to say members must adhere to the findings, suggests that not only the current board is skating on thin ice but so is the review panel and perhaps they are expecting trouble within the next couple of years.

Maybe, both groups have been struck down by the same disease. If that's the case then both deserve to be struck down. But first they must leave soccer in this country free of their illness.

Mitchell Ledger, Newtown, NSW.

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

RADIO WAVES

We have some good news, some indifferent news and some bad news to impart on the subject of radio broadcasts in Australia generally and in South Australia in particular.

First the good news on the NSL front in SA. For the second time since the birth of the national league competition in 1977, Adelaide has a commercial station, 5DN, being granted the exclusive rights to air the Adelaide City Force home and away games for the upcoming season.

Ironically, or coincidentally, 5DN was the first station to broadcast the fledgling NSL competition which was then known as the Philips League.

When DN dropped the ball some seasons later the broadcasting challenge was accepted by a variety of community stations.

5RPH 1197 Adelaide, Coast FM, 5EBI, 5RTI and TAB Radio entered the tower of radio babble individually and collectively during the ensuing seasons.

For season 2002-2003, NSL action will be covered by commercial radio channels, 5DN Adelaide, 6PR Perth, 2HD Newcastle and Radio Sport New Zealand.

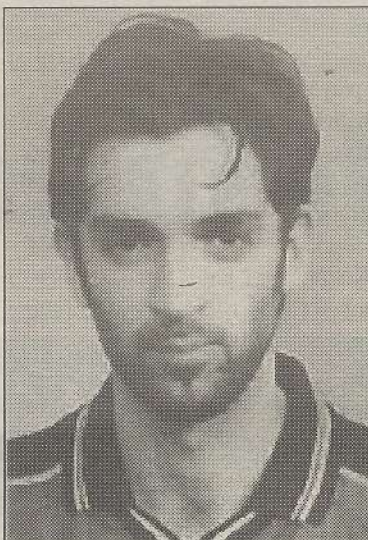
Community channels are being more selective with, 3XY Melbourne opting to concentrate solely on South Melbourne games, while Sydney's 2SSR FM will broadcast just Olympic Sharks matches.

That strictly club coverage is better than nothing you might say because nothing is what Brisbane and Wollongong soccer supporters will hear on their radios this season.

Conversely, Adelaide interest in bringing soccer into the homes and hospitals was high with Coast FM and 5RPH 1197 joining 5DN as applicants.

The decision to give DN the nod was made by Soccer Australia's communications department after consultation with Adelaide City, which last season decided to halt all radio broadcasts of its games.

But, don't touch that dial, get ready for the really bad news coming out of



Ned Zelic has been enlisted by the SASF to assist negotiations between the J-League and the local federation.

Adelaide community station 5RTI FM: 92.7 has had its license revoked by the Australian Broadcasting Authority.

This means that this dedicated team of soccer enthusiasts will, from the end of September, no longer broadcast Premier or State League games from local venues.

Rob Pepicelli, Val Migliacchio and

Michael Ricci set the broadcast ball rolling on SEBI FM back in 1994 and continued the good work on RTI from 1997.

The gallant group, joined week by week by other volunteers, braved blinding rain, hail and shine to bring their ball by ball description of their selected match of the day, along with score up dates from other grounds to their avid listeners.

The unrivalled weekly service was delivered mainly from the back of a utility known as the "Pope Mobile."

Pepicelli recalls that one memorable match from Para Hills was called from the roof of The Paddocks clubrooms.

The broadcast team has reluctantly admitted defeat for now, with Pepicelli providing a ray of hope by revealing that an alternative license was being sought.

J LEAGUE CONNECTION

SASF general manager Tony Farrugia flew off to Japan yesterday (Monday, September 16) on his annual quest to bring J League teams to Adelaide for pre-season training camps.

"Of the 16 J League teams, 13 have expressed interest in listening to our proposals," Farrugia said.

"Four teams that have not previously

accepted our invitations have approached us and Red Diamonds, who were one of our original teams to come here, are again likely to come."

Former Australian international Ned Zelic, now with Red Diamonds, has been enlisted by the SASF to assist in negotiations.

Farrugia said his aim is to have four Japanese teams in Adelaide at the same time to enable a pre-season J League series to be staged at Hindmarsh Stadium.

The SASF camps are officially endorsed by the Japanese Football League.

STARS PART WITH COACH

Despite guiding MetroStars to successive finals campaigns senior coach Mario Boffa was last week told that his services were no longer required.

The former State team player was disappointed by the decision, but responded by giving the club a ringing endorsement during an interview on radio 5RPH.

"I'm disappointed, but not bitter by the decision," Boffa said.

"I would tell anyone wanting to coach the club that they are a progressive club with a fine future."

BILL TURNER CUP COMES TO A CLIMATE END

Natalie Moore of MacKellar Girls High and Dean Zaccaria of Bossley Park High became instant heroes on Wednesday night when they lifted their respective teams to victory in the Bill Turner Cup.

The Bill Turner Cup is a massive New South Wales and ACT Under-15 schools soccer competition which began with just under 1000 schools.

In the boy's competition, Bossley Park High was crowned champions ahead of 537 other schools after Zaccaria's injury-time goal secured victory over Lambton High at Jack McLaughlan Field in Lake Macquarie.

The score was locked at 0-0 at the half time break and at full-time.

Lambton High finished the first half with a flurry of shots on goal.

Skipper Josh Piddington rifled a 30 metre shot at the Bossley Park goal with the visitor's 'keeper Paul Argeropoulos up to the task and parried away the blistering strike. From the rebound Blair Newham shot goal ward only to see his shot hit the crossbar.

Bossley Park had chances in the 42nd through Frank Froio, 49th by Chris Baronian and Kane Moffat in the 55th.

"The boys played with a lot of determination and passion," Bossley Park High coach Nathan Foti said of the win.



"And that passion probably won us the game tonight."

"It was a great game of football, we stuck to our game plan and it worked for them."

Cairns State High and Daramalan College jointly took third place after a 0-0 draw.

347 teams competed in the girls draw with MacKellar Girls High of Manly Vale in Sydney beating Mt View High of Cessnock 1-0.

MacKellar Girls High broke a 0-0 deadlock in the 48th (of 60) minute

through striker Moore. From a free kick from 35 metres out Moore was able to run unchallenged into the area and threaded the ball under Mt View 'keeper Jade Hutchinson.

"I thought the result was in doubt all the way," a jubilant MacKellar Girls High coach Jacky Penfold said after the match.

"Mt View were really strong and put us under pressure right from the start."

"But we withstood that pressure and the girls played strongly."

"We were a bit sluggish at the start, but we never gave up and kept pressuring and made this one count."

Defeat came as a bitter pill for Mt View which hadn't conceded a single goal until the final.

"We had of enough of the game to score a few goals but we just couldn't stick it in the net."

"Tonight we conceded our first goal of the season and that was the one that counted. But to their credit they tried hard all night and did not give up."

Canberra High finished third with a 2-0 win over Port Macquarie.

Raiders wrest title from Blue Eagles

By Allan Crisp

Raiders halted a gallant Blue Eagles bid for a hat-trick of Premier League Grand Final wins by downing the Eagles 2-1 in a thrilling finale to the 2002 season at Hindmarsh Stadium on Friday night.

While freely classified as an upset victory the result was no real surprise as the rampant Raiders proved conclusively that their Preliminary Final elimination of the star studded Galaxy the previous week was certainly not a fluke.

When first season senior Raiders coach Michael Petrillo lifted the silverware in front of an appreciative band of supporters he did so with pride because it was the clubs first title win since 1997, a feat that tossed the cream on Raiders 50th anniversary celebrations.

Petrillo instigated his tried and true formula to leap this final hurdle, using the talents of a dedicated defence that allowed just two goals throughout the finals campaign, while banking on the sharp reflexes of striker Jason Trimboli to capitalise on the midfield sorties of Rick Cerracchio, Joe Barbaro and Sam Barbaro.

Scott Morrison was the heart of the Raiders solid defence and the former West Adelaide Sharks central defender deservedly won the Alex Hastings Medal as Man-of-the-Match.

"The Eagles earned the first scoring chance of the final in the 10th minute when Frank Sergi was upended in the box by Stanko Zilic, but the resultant penalty kick was superbly saved by Raiders goalkeeper Anthony Breden.

Nine minutes later referee Craig Zetter pointed to the spot at the other end of the ground after Joe Barbaro was flattened by Michael Pirone and Trimboli gave Gino DeLucia in the Blues goal no chance with his powerful penalty kick.

Pirone atoned in the 23rd minute with an accurate cross from the left for Brooks to net with a brilliant glancing header.

Trimboli, whose earlier goal was his third in successive grand finals (the other two were netted for Modbury Jets in losing games) shoved Raiders back in front when he connected with a rebound from a shot by Rick Caperna.

DeLucia palmed the ball away, but Trimboli fired into the net from close to the bye-line for the remarkable goal.

A second Brooks leveller was always a possibility and it was close to reality when the ace marksman broke clear only to be



denied by a wonderfully executed tackle from young Raiders white-booted flank man, Justin Bralic.

The lucky breaks that felt the Eagles way in previous finals went missing in the heat of Raiders intense desire to retain their slender lead.

Blue Eagles coach Zoran Karadzic, with five titles from a record eight seasons on his championship belt, had no excuses after the final whistle.

But the gamble of fielding injury hit star midfielder Corey Artone, while worth the risk, failed because the playmaker was unable to see out the first half.

CROYDON RIPS CROWN FROM ENFIELD

Croydon Kings and Enfield Falcons entered the State League Grand Final having already won promotion for next season.

By any stretch of the imagination, this final should have been a sedate affair with the premiership cup the sole reward.

Oh Yeah! Croydon took the spoils 3-2, but only after two red cards, six yellow cards and a collection of bruises illustrated the passion and unbridled competitive nature of the contest.

John Christopoulos gave Croydon a dream start with a goal after 90 seconds, chipping the ball over goalkeeper Andrew Caminiti after running on to a pass from

Frank Pergoletto.

Marc Woods blew a great chance to increase the advantage in the seventh minute and his night worsened in the 12th minute when he was sent off for allegedly punching Enfield's Dominic Musci.

The game became a 10-a-side show in the 24th minute when Peter Rossi was red carding for a crude tackle on Pergoletto.

Hard running Josh Richardson climaxed a great foraging run by netting an insurance goal for the Kings 10 minutes before half time to post a 2-0 interval lead.

Right on the hour, Joe Rechichi helped reduce the leeway for the Falcons by lobbing a cross into the goalmouth where Musci crashed the ball home.

Rechichi equalised when he accepted a neat pass from Mark Mulady to volley into the far corner of the net.

With the final delicately poised, Croydon hit back in the 79th minute after substitute Brad Donovan was felled by Enfield goalkeeper Caminiti, prompting referee Matthew Cream to award a penalty.

Tony Musolino did the necessary from the spot to crown a satisfying end to the career of Kings captain Shane Porter, who won the Bailetti Medal as the Man of the Match.

Porter, who intends to continue with Croydon in a coaching role next season, said after the game, "This is an absolute dream, words cant describe how Im feeling now."

"Ennio (Loungo) would have been a very brave man to have dragged me," Porter said.

PREMIER LEAGUE FINAL

RAIDERS 2 (Trimboli 19, 37 pen) BLUE EAGLES 1 (Brooks 23). Best Raiders: Morrison, Trimboli, Bralic; Blue Eagles: Deleso, Zito, DeLucia.

STATE LEAGUE FINAL

CROYDON KINGS 3 (Christison 2, Richardson 34, Musolino 79 pen) ENFIELD FALCONS 2 (Musci 60, Rechichi 70). Best Croydon: S. Porter, Chamstrom, C. Woods; Enfield: Hilditch, Steele, Richichi.

SATURDAY, SEPT 21 HINDMARSH STADIUM

Fasta Pasta Centenary Challenge South Australia v Victoria (Kick-Off 7pm)

VICTORIAN CLUB PREVIEWS

There are many similarities in close season activities between the two remaining Victorian NSL clubs.

Both have new Presidents, both were forced to implement spending cuts across their football and non football departments yet both would be looking to the new season with genuine expectations. Brendon Davis looks at the prospects facing both clubs.

Our Victorian Clubs will need a good start to the season, they finish with only two of their last nine games in Victoria.

Melbourne Knights



When the Sommers Street club announced a wages cap of \$500,000 – the lowest in the NSL most expected the Knights would really struggle. But they underestimated the ability of Andrew Marth and the Knights administration.

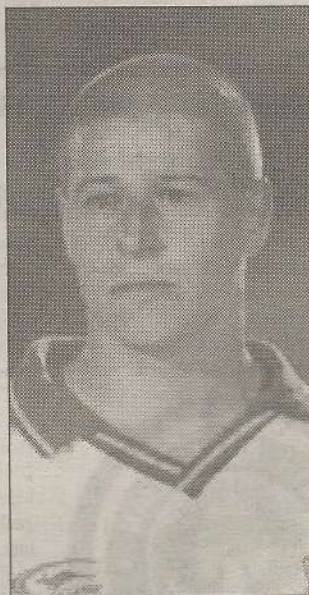
Up front the Knights secured former Croatian Striker Leon Buhic, a striker who boasts a 100-goal haul in the Croatian League. They also beat several rival clubs for the signature of Fawkes striker Henry Fa'arodo and

former South Melbourne substitute Nick Sabljak. The most recent signing is Isyan Erdogan, a defender from the VPL.

And last week they were successful in having another of their past players Adrian Cervinski return home. And if the whisper is correct, Lubo Lapsansky too is on his way back to Sommers Street. He will be a most welcome addition.

They boast some quality experience in Soccerroo Steve Horvat, Andrew Marth and Rodi Vargas but have lost some real quality in DaCosta, Porter and Ogenovski.

To enjoy success the Knights need to maintain last years excellent record away from home while conceding fewer points at Sommers Street, a ground few clubs usually look forward to visiting.



Adrian Cervinski has linked up again with the Knights this season.

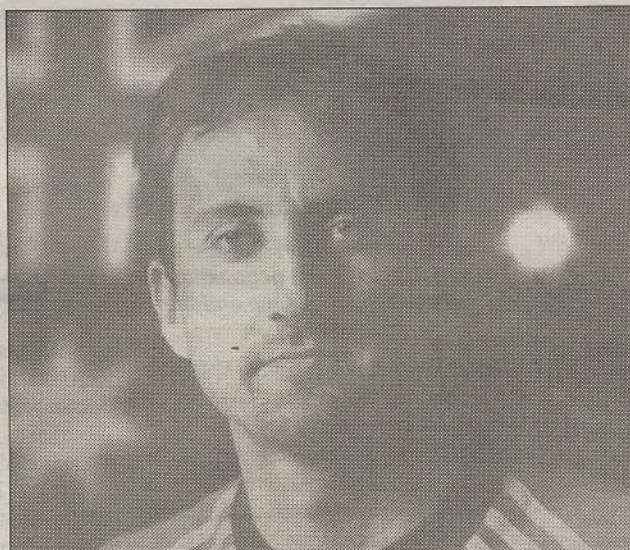
The Knights will take time to bond as a team as many newer players have been in with the team for days or weeks at best. This will impact adversely on their early results.

While the Knights will fail to make the top six they will

the Lakeside Club.

Exiting from last years squad is Boutsianis, Bell, Bacak, Sabljak and Petkovic who are replaced by Susa, Baird and

Anastasiadis while David Clarkson returns from a long



Steve Horvat: Melbourne Knights' consistent defender.

significantly influence the composition of those that do. And they'll outperform many of the clubs with significantly greater financial resources at their disposal.

My Prediction: Seventh (7th)

South Melbourne

With old boys Danny Wright (coach), Bruce McLaren (Goal Keeping Coach), Steve Blair (General Manager) and several other former greats all returning to the club a new era has begun at

term injury.

Like their cross town rivals, South have been forced to implement stringent financial measures forcing a cut in absolute wages combined with a more streamlined squad.

South have retained the core of last years successful team with all defenders and midfielders having recommitted themselves to the club.

Up-front South now enjoy multiple options with Coveny, Buljan and Baird as established strikers, with several of the younger strikers, particularly the youth leagues top scorer of 2001/02 in Steven



Kiwi international Vaughan Coveny's main aim this season is to score as many goals for the Lakesiders.

Pace also vying for selection.

Susa adds a touch of class in the middle although Kisorbo has a question mark hanging over his head given his obvious desire to be elsewhere. This will likely create opportunities for young Tolios who

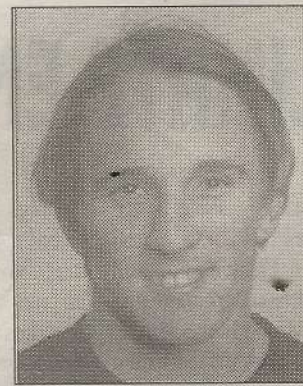
is capable of stepping up.

But the real determinant will be the extent Murdoch, Lia and Sekulovski can step up to the next level.

South can ill afford injuries to their veterans; Trimboli, Durakovic D'Amicis and Clarkson as each is important to Souths prospects.

And Danny Wright, who has an outstanding soccer pedigree is untested at this level, but should make a smooth transition to the NSL coaching ranks.

With a solid foundation South have added a few class players to a good squad. South will be thereabouts at season end.



Michael Baird: South Melbourne's new striker straight from Brisbane.

My Prediction: Third (3rd)

A NEW SPIRIT?

By Stuart Jones

Northern Spirit are going into the new season with new found hope and are looking for their great masses of fans to return to the fold.

At times last season there were so few turning up the players nearly outnumbered the fans and the contrast between the buzz around the ground from season one to last season could not have been wider.

During the off season control of the club changed hands and one of the first thing the new owners did was put back into the place a key ingredient to their first season success – a fans liaison officer.

The man they put in the position was none other than Micky Brock. Mr Brock was a driving

force in season one in getting the fans views expressed to management and his spell there, as well as his short spell at Parramatta Power, coincided with increased crowd sizes.

"I see my position as telling the fans what is going on, encouraging them to return to the fold and feel a part of the club. The fans can not do it all and I have already told the players that in the last couple of seasons I have seen blokes put on the Spirit shirt and not put their heart into it.

That to me, and all other Spirit fans, is unacceptable. I am genuinely looking forward to the new season. We may not have the money that once flooded this place but we have an exciting young team and management that wants to hear the view of the fans."

"I am not going to lie to the

fans – if they ask me a question and I don't know the answer I will tell them just that. However I won't leave it at that, I will go and find out the answer

and get back to the fans. No more will there be answers made up on the spot to keep the fans quiet.

I also look forward to bringing in new ideas that cement the fans and the team together. We were a family club and that is what we want to return to. We want that awesome spirit around the place that there was when I was first part of this club."

Bill Collins is another member of Northern Spirit from that first season, and he is one of the

few that still remains at the club.

"The last couple of seasons have been disappointing crowd wise. Season

One coming to Spirit Park reminded me of European football, I loved it. The players looked forward to coming to Spirit just to play in front of

those huge crowds. We need to get that atmosphere back, we need the fans to sing their songs and really feel a part of the football experience.

Micky was the lynchpin to the fans in those successful years and now he is back. Our website has been good in the past but is very clinical, Micky and Tancred, another fan, are



turning the site into a fan user friendly site. I believe the side has all the right ingredients in place to succeed, we need the fans to give us a chance."

"The change of ownership has been a good thing for the club and their fans. Antonio, our chairman, is a huge fan of the web and most nights he is on the Spirit sites participating in the fan forums. He real is just another fan! You would not be able to name too many clubs around the world who have that!"

Robbie Slater is looking forward to the new season as well. "The fans support their club in the good or the bad times. Last season is over now and we look forward to a new one.

The fans have got some great signings to get behind like youngsters Kwasnik and MacAllister and experienced

players like Ian Ferguson. They are going to be a huge asset for the side.

Fans don't stop supporting the team even through the bad times but I see good times just around the corner for the club so I am excited about the new kickoff. I can't wait for the fans to come back through the gates and enjoy the football on offer at Spirit Park."

Northern Spirit are playing matches in Round 4 and 21 at Brookvale Oval, and there is a chance another match will be moved but apart from that home matches will be played at North Sydney Oval on a Friday night.

The players are ready to put everything on the line for the club – are the fans ready to respond in kind? It could only be good for the game.

MORRIS IEMMA:

Minister for Sport and Recreation Interview

By Joseph Carlucci

Joseph Carlucci took the time out in discussing a few views with Minister for Sport and Recreation Mr Morris Iemma last week on live air.

Following is the transcript provided by Carlucci about what Iemma spoke about in terms of football.

Australian hopes of hosting the World Cup have been high, and the reality of it all seems quite possible in the not too distant future. How have you interpreted Premier Bob Carr's recent announcement of Australia's interest for the 2014 tournament?

It's the Premier showing leadership on the issue. He has taken the lead, and is very keen to see Australia host the 2014 tournament. Soccer is a passion for hundreds and thousands of people in this country; it has been crying out for leadership, and he (Bob Carr) has shown that leadership in firstly taking on the bid, and secondly in setting up a task force to provide him with advice and recommendations on a wide

There is no reason why it can't, we showed the world with the 2000 Olympics that we could run the largest event successfully. We were described, by Mr. Samaranch, as having run the best ever Games. A lot of us that are passionate about soccer would argue that the World Cup is a much bigger event than the Olympics. Having hosted the Olympics so successfully, there is no reason why we couldn't do the same for the World Cup.

In fact, we have probably established the model for successful staging of these mass events.

A lot will, obviously, depend on the funding, from the Government, and also from Soccer Australia, an organisation that is currently in some turmoil with huge debts and internal conflict.

Reading through the nominated venues as potential World Cup stadiums, even though it is a long way off, Mr. Carr has mentioned the likes of Stadium Australia, Colonial Stadium, MCG, The Gabba (just to name a few), do you think these stadiums can be classified World Cup venues? Are they suitable for the staging of such a tournament?



Ian Knop: Soccer Australian Chairman.

range of issues to improve the game, and see soccer realize its full potential in this country.

The astronomical Australian viewing audiences during the 2002 Japan/Korea World Cup; a World Cup in Australia should be just as successful as the one in Asia?

Yes. The thing that gives Australia an advantage in putting forward the bid for the 2014 tournament, is that there has been a mass investment in sporting facilities across the country. This places Australia at such an advantage.

The MCG, for example, is an outstanding stadium at the



Morris Iemma: Minister for Sport & Recreation.

moment, and it is about to undergo a \$500 million dollar redevelopment in preparation for the 2006 Commonwealth Games. It will have a capacity of 100 000 by 2006.

The Gabba, in Queensland, has had a massive amount of money spent on it over the past few years. It now sits 36 000 people, with another stand yet to go up. It will hold a capacity of 40 000 people.

Another stadium in Brisbane, under construction, will be ready by next year, in time for the Rugby World Cup.

Suncorp Stadium will have a capacity of 55 000, and a state-of-the-art stadium.

In NSW, Stadium Australia, which there are no words needed to be said, along with Aussie Stadium, i.e. the old Sydney Football Stadium.

In Adelaide, Football Park, has just finished its redevelopment. It has a capacity of 50 000. It also meets FIFA requirements.

Perth, Subiaco Oval, which has also undergone redevelopments over the past five years seats 40 000. Possibly it may not meet all FIFA standards, namely under-cover seating and media facilities, though that would be only a minor upgrade.

ACT, Bruce Stadium, here a small upgrade will also be needed to meet the FIFA regulations.

Really, of the 8 to 10 venues needed to stage the World Cup, probably only two would need any sort of work to be carried out. And even then, it would be minimal.

We are perfectly placed as far as venues go. If this question

was asked ten years ago, I would have said no; because we didn't have all these venues, and the facilities were very inadequate.

This cannot be said now.

FIFA President, Sepp Blatter, has spoken of Australia's coming of age in the soccer world. He has spoken of Australia getting a direct passage from their Oceania qualifying group to the next World Cup, and of course, his backing of Australia to host the tournament. How true to his word do you feel Mr. Blatter is?

Considering he had promised the 2006 World Cup to Africa, and at the final moment Germany prevailed.

I don't see any reason that he, Mr. Blatter, is not sincere in his words. He has said that the National Government's support is required for a country to host the tournament, along with that of the National Soccer body.

He hasn't given any commitment that the Cup will come to Australia in 2014, though he has encouraged Australia to explore putting a bid together. He has made it clear that Germany have the 2006 tournament, that Africa, the controversial losers to the 2006 bid, will then get the tournament in 2010. Mr. Blatter has not given us any misleading statements. FIFA's commitments with the 2006 and 2010 tournaments are already taken, and the 2014 slot is one that FIFA has yet to commit to.

The UK and South America have also expressed interest for 2014, so we will be up against them. We have got reason to accept Mr. Blatter's remarks.

In-terms of him saying Australia has come of age, I think his words are very accurate; particularly when you look at the Achievements of the Australian Youth teams.

It hasn't yet been replicated at a Senior level?

Soccer Australia's internal problems that need to be addressed before Australia can put together the bid, even though the final Government Funding will be detrimental to Australia's chances of being successful with the bid.

No one doubts that Soccer Australia has some problems, and that these problems need to be addressed for soccer to improve in this country.

But, no one should be hesitant that in twelve years time, Soccer Australia can't get things together. It is a long way off, and with the bid, 2007 will be the time when the overall bid will be stitched together. That's five years away, so I cannot see why soccer Australia cannot and will not solve these problems before then.

Secondly, people shouldn't underestimate the infrastructure that we have in terms of people and facilities; all of which we

World Cup in 2003, the Commonwealth Games in 2006, and the 2014 World Cup if Australia's bidding is successful.

So, although there are some problems currently, there are a lot of people that want to help, along with the many Governments that are also interested.

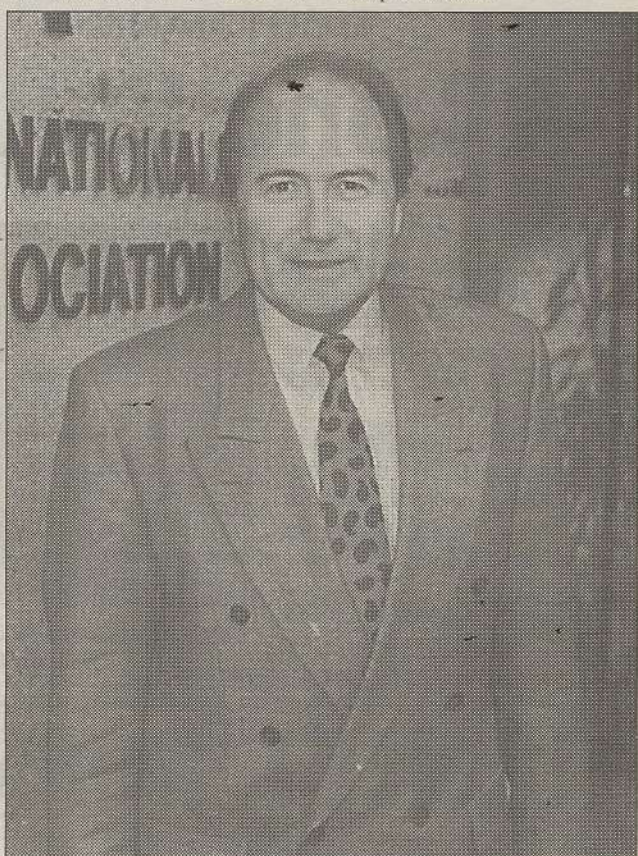
This infrastructure is a big headstart.

Soccer can only benefit from all this help?

Yes, the challenge for the soccer community and Soccer Australia, is to use the goodwill that already exists to help make facilities, people, services available to assist the administration of soccer.

The Rugby World Cup, Commonwealth Games, and possibly the 2014 World Cup, Australia's economy can only benefit; tourism wise, and of course the soccer culture in this country.

If Australia were successful in getting the World Cup, I am confident that we would see many times more visitors and supporters travel to Australia than what we saw for the Olympics. You only have to see the passion, on the TV screens, of the fans and supporters alike at European fixtures.



Sepp Blatter: FIFA President.

already we have in place in-order to assist the National body.

The Olympics saw those 40 000 volunteers work so marvelously well, along with Police, Emergency Services, Public Servants; these people, in large part, will be around then also, making the personnel of the Olympics available for the Rugby

The support is fanatical. These supporters will pay, and will travel. This will benefit the economy.

Unfortunately, there are the problems of hooliganism, though, as we saw in Japan/Korea, these problems were kept to a minimum, and the tournament rolled along.

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Wolves Prospects Optimistic

The re-building of the Wolves side for 2002/03 season is completed. At first glance the squad looks good - a mixture of experience and youth, including several local lads out of the youth development and two local Premier League players.

Illawarra's soccer fans can look forward for a very competitive team, capable to challenge for a spot in the top half of the table. The competition kicks off for the Wolves on Friday 20th September away at Marconi Stallions, a club that had to reform their squad with new coaching staff and a number of new players. Obviously Wolves fans expect a successful result.

On the promotion front, a newly founded company "Football AU" has taken over the marketing of the soccer club, comprising of promoting the Wolves course, sponsoring, fostering public relations, running local website, etc. One of the partners Robert Rossi of 'Football AU' has called in local soccer supporters for a news conference at WIN Stadium for Friday 13th September 10.30 AM to introduce a major shirt sponsor for the club, bringing in considerable new funding, a great boost for the Wolves management and stabilisation of the foundations of the soccer club.

The Wollongong club is the first prominent client for Football AU which works toward expanding to other sports with links to Rugby Union, eventually marketing more sports organisations.

Evaluation of Play-offs Series

In the initial stage of the Conference League first round of the top eight play-offs the support from the public has been encouraging.

Prize money for Grand final winners in all three grades and runner-ups in Conference League amount to around \$5000 plus several thousand dollars from gate receipts to be distributed.

tributed. All games are eagerly contested, every single club aiming to do well, ultimately looking to reach the Grand Final, the highlight of all football codes in Australia, crowning the end of the season.

NTG, National Telecom Group - a telecommunications and IT Service Provider is the new shirt sponsor of the Wollongong Wolves.

Last Friday, a press conference held at WIN Stadium, the NTG Executive, Mick Hakim from Sydney Head Office introduced local General Manager of NTG Dominic Pipino (Former owner of Beticall, taken over by the National company) expressing their sponsorship of soccer in general, using the Wolves as a vehicle to support soccer and spread their business interests in the Illawarra.

From the Wolves acting Chairman, Neil Greig welcomed the first national sponsor of the club, saying this is the way for the future of soccer in Wollongong.

Captain Stuart Young and Naum Sekulovski expressed their pride to be part of a new Wolves team sponsor by NTG who also are major sponsors of a Sydney NRL club. The deal was set up by local promotion company Football AU, partner Robert Rossi was very enthusiastic of the potential for more business supporters and sponsors.

Illawarra Weekend Results Conference League Semi-finals

At Terry Reserve Albion Park WE took on Warilla Wanderers after losing their first encounter a week ago. This time the Minor Premier played to their potential and recorded a 5:1 win to advance to the final next Saturday.

However credit to the Wanderers equalising after an earlier setback with the score 1:1 at the break. It took a while before Albion Park scored the second goal, missing a few opportunities and when goal number three fell the Wanderers resistance was gone.

They are now out of the play-offs while Albion Park WE are installed as firm favourite for the Grand final to be played on

STOP PRESS - NEWS FLASH

Sunday 29 September. They are expected to win the final against University, everything else would be considered an upset.

In Reserve Grade Highland upset Albion Park to win 2:1 to advance.

At Ray Robinson Field, Fernhill, Shellharbour City pulled off another big effort to overcome second placed Dapto 2:1. According to Coach Barney King all players worked hard and even though Dapto pushed hard, his boys grouped well together to weather the storm and could have scored even more goals. Darren Gardiner and Paul Keating ensured a 2:0 lead before Dapto was allowed to come closer with their goal. The team is now confident to tackle the next obstacle in the final against Highlands United, not an easy task with Shellharbour having lost their competition clashes with them.

The incentive being one win away from the Grand Final will spur both teams on.

Reserve Grade resulted in a 3:3 draw between Fernhill and South Coast United, the replay will take place on Tuesday at Balgownie.

Cup Games at Judy Masters Oval

Kemblawarra played Coniston Lions in a very close encounter and won in the last minute of normal time 2:1, goals from John Lloyd and Jason Matthews while Coniston score with a penalty. Kemblawarra was chasing after a 1:0 deficit and equalised in the second half and then slotted in the winner with seconds to spare.

A couple of incidents upset the players where another penalty was demanded by Coniston which could have resulted in a 2:0 win. In the end Kemblawarra proved the better side and overall deserved to take the cup.

Celebrations were in order afterwards. Coniston was unlucky to have one player sent-off in the first half and lost their main striker Anthony Guido also in the first half as well as a player through injury thus using all their substitutes.

Villani rates force a finals threat

By Allan Crisp

Adelaide City Force coach Charley Villani is not one to boast or brag, but he would be extremely disappointed if his team is not among the top six clubs to contest the NSL finals.

His optimism stems from a rollicking recruiting romp that enabled the Force to regain former heroes, Claudio Pelosi, Goran Lozanovski and Gianluca Lagati, while picking up outstanding new talents in Diego Pellegrini, Michael Valkanis, Shane Smeltz and goalkeeper Ian Martin.

Add to that list former Carlton midfielder David Terminello, who was sidelined from NSL action through injury last season, and we can

see why Villani believes that any one of his 23-man squad would be capable of being chosen in the first eleven.

While Villani is pleased with the form of his newcomers, he is equally happy by the pre-season enthusiasm of his newly appointed captain Ante Kovacevic and last seasons experienced mainstays, Aurelio Vidmar and Carl Veart.



"Ideally, it would be great if we could field the same team each week, but it's also great that we have excellent cover in case of injury or suspension," Villani said.

"From what I've seen so far in trial games, we should be very competitive in what is shaping as an unpredictable league."

"There has been a lot of player movement during the off-season, so we could have a few teams dominating and perhaps a few teams struggling in the early stages."

Villani rates Perth Glory, Olympic Sharks and Newcastle United highly and expects those teams to be in the finals mix.

City enjoyed a pre-season bonus when it collected the \$7,000 first prize for winning the Fairmont Homes/Bianco Builders Tri-Series when it toppled Marconi Fairfield 2-1, courtesy of a last minute goal from New Zealander, Smeltz.

D'AVRAY GUARDED OVER GLORY'S TITLE HOPES

By Richard Kreider

Like any forthcoming season, the usual pre-kick-off hype has included the uncertainty of who will perform and who is likely to fail, but with the way some clubs have been bolstering their stocks prior to last week's FIFA deadline, pundits have every right to feel a growing sense of optimism that this could be one of the most open contests in years.

Perth Glory coach Mich d'Avray expressed a similar sentiment last weekend and whether his charges emulate last season's runaway Premiership success - especially after a fairly subdued pre-season campaign.

"We definitely need to pick it up from what we did pre-season; but the experienced players are aware of that and I'm sure come next Saturday we'll be ok," said the Glory boss at the end of an inter-squad practise match at Perth Oval last Saturday morning before preparing his side for this weekend's clash at Parramatta Power.

Perth had two games against Parramatta in the south-west of the State where the spoils were even with a win apiece followed by a recent trip to Malaysia for a couple of games against Sarawak, where the NSL Premiers first secured a 2-2 draw before an untroubled 6-1 win.

"The opposition in Malaysia could have been better, although having said that, the hot and humid conditions were a great leveller," said d'Avray.

Then there was the Charity Shield clash with the State under-23's last Wednesday at Litis Stadium for their final serious hit, where the NSL side drew 1-1 with the feisty youngsters.

"So yes, ideally I would have liked stiffer opposition,

but the 'geographics' of Perth are always going hamper things like this," said d'Avray.

The one other issue that has worried some Perth fans has been the lack of quality player signings. They did however manage to secure imported midfielder Andre Gumprecht from the German lower leagues, who has improved with every game.

Apart from the signing of ex-Wollongong Wolves defender Ben Blake and local youngsters Jamie Coyne and Shaun Kilkelly, the Glory is going into the season with a similar look about them.

Jason Petkovic will again take the goalkeeper position with Vince Matassa as his support but there is a hint of wariness over the backline with Craig Deans electing to have surgery on a troublesome knee, which will sideline him for the whole season.

Shane Pryce, Jamie Harnwell, David Tarka and flank-runner Scott Miller should feature in defence, Matty Horsley, Edgar Junior, Brad Hassell, Gary Faria and now Gumprecht will be fighting for a midfield shirt and strike duo Damian Mori and Bobby Despotovski have proved their uncanny collaboration has not diminished.

Striker Nick Mrdja and midfielder Michael Garcia will probably be used from the bench. Meanwhile, d'Avray believes the new FIFA ruling, which halted all player movements last Sunday, could very well threaten a club's advancement.

"It's all a bit of a mockery," said d'Avray, who has yet to be convinced that the directive is cast in stone. "This is where we are going to need a lot of luck for us to come through. If you get injuries to key players, you can't go out to replace them

now and that could be devastating for the team. The stronger squads are going to come through this season."

"But that of course doesn't just concern Perth Glory it is going to affect all the other clubs."

"So, as coach you have got to guess what is going to happen in two months time - and you can't do that."

"I really think, and I'm not saying this tongue-in-cheek, that for the first time possibly since I've been here in Perth, we are not starting a season as favourites - and that might be a good thing for us."

"If you look at the (Olympic) Sharks, I think they are going to be awesome. I think they will be the benchmark for the season," said the Perth boss.

"Parramatta (Power) has spent big and if they click then they too are going to be a hell of a force."

"Then there is Newcastle who has got exactly the same squad as last season but it has strengthened within itself. They only lost two games last season."

"So, this is unknown territory for Perth Glory and its fans."

D'Avray is not too fazed about Royce Brownlie's last second decision to sign for Power, after he apparently first accepted a verbal agreement to sign with the Perth club.

"The players are entitled to a freedom of choice," said d'Avray. "I wasn't going to beg the player to sign. We made an offer to where we felt he is at, and they agreed on it."

"The fact that they reneged on the deal is not the end of the world for me, but what is disappointing is not getting a telephone call from the player after what we have done - not even a thanks or no thanks," ended d'Avray.

BOUTSIANIS -

A Lone Ranger



Wayward midfield maestro Con Boutsianis may have played his last National Soccer League game after failing to get back to South Melbourne over an approach from new coach Danny Wright.

Boutsianis, who has publicly fallen out with his former clubs Perth Glory and the Kingz, completed last season with South Melbourne but has not been in contact with the club for two months.

"The beauty about the approach I made to Con at the time I was



Con Boutsianis has an uncertain future in the National League.

appointed coach was the fact I didn't have any history with him apart from the good times I shared with him as a player," Wright said.

Wright expressed his disappointment that Boutsianis had passed up the chance to play out his days at a club where he was respected and adored by fans.

Boutsianis was a member of the Socceroos' train-on squad for the Oceania Nations Cup in July, but virtually disappeared after saying he would only play if he was paid, something Soccer Australia had made clear was not going to be possible.

CAHILL ROCKED WITH INJURY



Tim Cahill has suffered a major blow to his proposed move to the Premiership with a knee injury.

Millwall have been rocked by the news that Tim Cahill faces a long spell on the sidelines with a cruciate knee ligament injury.

Midfielder Cahill went for a scan on his injury last week and has been told he needs surgery.

Lions boss Mark McGhee told

www.millwallfc.co.uk: "This is clearly a massive blow for Tim, who was being talked about as a potential Premiership player."

Meanwhile, Andy Roberts will decide this week whether to accept a one-year contract offer from the club.

National League Coaches Outlook For The Season

— By Mark Stavroulakis —

With the National League only a whisker away from it's initial kick-off for the new season, ABSW's editor Mark Stavroulakis caught up with the 13 National League coaches and poised the questions on how they think the year will go for their team, pre-season so far and if the new finals series is a good concept for the game?



SYDNEY UNITED — Branko Culina

"The outlook for this season at United is trying to do better than last year, that would be our first aim."

I've been happy with certain aspects of the current team but I guess the only down point would be that a few of my players started pre-season a little too late. At the moment we've got some players carrying niggling injuries such as Dave Barrett and Christian Cevenini but hopefully all will be well for the start of the season.

It's too early to say whether we are capable of making the six as I

have yet to see the other teams from the National League, however I can comment that the top six finals series format is a bit of a worry.

I ask the question as to what will happen to those teams that miss out on the top six this season? They will be out of footballing action for more than 10 weeks, which in football terms is a disaster."



Branko Culina



BRISBANE STRIKERS — John Kosmina

"I'm pretty happy with how things have gone for us at the moment at the Strikers however it is early days. I guess the best thing we can do is build from last season's performances."

We have pretty much the same squad, losing young Michael Baird to South Melbourne and having Paul Foster retired was tough however we must go on.

Signing Steve Laybutt has boosted the squad immensely, he's one of the best defenders in the league and once he gains full fit-

ness will be a player to watch out for.

With a few more friendly matches on the way, we will use these as strong indicators on how we will start the season off — hopefully in a good way."



John Kosmina



PERTH GLORY — Mich d'Avray

"We've seen three-four teams recruiting very strongly in the National League so far, we have stuck with pretty much the same squad."

It is going to be very hard to repeat our past achievements that we accomplished in the National League however be rest assured that our number one aim at the moment is to make the finals at the end of the season."



Mich d'Avray



SOUTH MELBOURNE — Danny Wright

"Clubs will be put in a difficult position this year in regards to how the competition will run."

We have prepared as if it was a normal year amidst all the problems the code is currently facing, we have ignored them and we will get on with the job at hand.

There will be a different format to follow this season in terms of the finals series but our aim is to make the top six."

Recruiting has been good this season, we've lost a few players however we have signed well, but overall a top six spot is what we are aiming for this year."



Danny Wright



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS — Andrew Marth

"Due to financial reasons we had to release a number of players this season but I'm happy with the current squad."

We will rely heavily on youth this year but will be boosted with the return of Adrian Cervinski and the inclusion of a future star in Harry Fa'Arudo from the Fawkner Blues.

I'm a bit sceptical on how the season will go for us, I'll be content with a mid-table finish

but a top six finish would be a bonus.

Expectations aren't that high at this stage but we will take every game as it comes and I know the guys will give 100% in all our matches this year."



Andrew Marth



OLYMPIC SHARKS — Gary Phillips

"It will be a defining year for us this season with the new National League re-structure set for next season, all the clubs will be out to impress this year."

It will be an interesting and exciting year this season but in the same token, the future of the club (long-term) is still uncertain.

We bought Joel Porter this season who has replaced the loss of Lindsay Wilson and I guess it's more a straight swap. Both players in my mind are of same value to the squad the only difference would be that Porter scores more goals.

George Souris has also made the switch to the Sharks and he will replace Steve Laybutt provided he gets through his injuries okay."

We are looking to back-up from our Grand-Final win last season so a top six spot is obviously our main aim this year."

In regards to the finals system I think it's ridiculous, six will go through while the other seven clubs miss out on a good 9-10 weeks!

If we are trying to model the league around the Swiss, it's not something that will benefit the league, I mean the Swiss aren't known to be world beaters on a global scale."



Gary Phillips



ADELAIDE CITY FORCE — Charlie Villani

"There has been a lot of player movement during the off-season, so we could have a few teams dominating and perhaps a few teams struggling in the early stages."

From what I've seen so far in trial games, we should be

very competitive in what is shaping as an unpredictable league."

Ideally, it would be great if we could field the same team each week, but it's also great that we have excellent cover in case of injuries or suspensions."



NORTHERN SPIRIT — Lawrie McKinna

"Since I've taken over as coach of the Spirit, it has been really hectic however we do boost many quality players, especially youngsters."

Obviously our main aim is to get into the top six this year, but playing attractive football is the key for the Spirit this season."

In saying that, it will be an unpredictable year, the whole league is gearing up for the re-structure next season but that gives clubs an incentive in doing

their bit in playing well this year."

I'm a fan of the new finals series, I think more games for those that do go through to the finals series is a good thing as players relish playing more matches."



Lawrie McKinna



WOLLONGONG WOLVES — Ron Corry

"We at the Wolves want to firstly enjoy our football this season. The squad has been training quite well to date, and we hope to do our best in the National League this season."

There are no expectations for us to do well, as the media have stated clearly, however that doesn't worry me, I just want the lads to go out there and do the best they can and achieve good results."

In the transfer market we've bought Andrew Crews, Shane Lyons and have brought in youngster Jacob Timpano who looks like a promising

star. It's a squad mixed with youth and experience that's for sure."

In regards to the finals series, it doesn't really make a difference, I guess that's how the set-up was proposed before the National League started so the clubs have to deal with it more or less, regardless of what they think."



Ron Corry



MARCONI STALLIONS — Raul Blanco

"We started pre-season pretty early, but I've been happy with the development of the squad. Every player is working hard towards the new season, but unfortunately we have suffered a few injuries."

Michael Turnbull, Darren McDonald, Kevo Gulesarian and Christian Care are recovering from their injuries and I hope to see them back very soon."

In total we've lost nine players from last season and have picked up Enes, Perinich and McDonald and I know that they have what it takes to lift the Stallions to the next level."

We do have aspirations to gain a top six spot but I know that the cohesion and understanding side of the game takes time, but overall I am aiming for a top six finish come end of the season."

The finals series is a good idea I think more matches is always beneficial for the league, players and fans of the National League."



Raul Blanco



PARRAMATTA POWER — Nick Theodorakopoulos

"We have levels of expectation, we are certainly eyeing a top six berth which would be our main aim for the season. It's no secret that every club has cut their playing budgets, but in the same time, we at the Power have been able to obtain quality players for the new-year."

In regards to the new Semi-Final system, I'm a believer that when you are told something well in advance, like in this case, then you can prepare physically and mentally for the year ahead."

A large squad will come in handy

this season and I am fortunate enough to have had that experience whilst in Greece."

It will be a tough National League competition this season but as a club, we are looking towards consolidating a position in the top six — something the club has yet to do in its existence."



Nick Theodorakopoulos



NEWCASTLE UNITED — Ian Crook

"Pre-season has been pretty much up and down. Injuries have really hampered our preparations for the National League."

Chris Zoricich, Matty Bingley, Michael Prentice Mark Wilson and Joey Schirripa are all either recovering from injury or going through their rehabilitation stages. The current squad however has done well; we've had a few friendly matches with some National League sides and have done considerably well."

I'm pretty happy with the selection of the squad, it's the majority of the old boys mixed with a few faces."

A top six finish is of course on the agenda for the club, our target is going just as good as or better than last season."

In terms of the finals system, I'm an old fashioned Englishman in the sense that I believe whoever finishes first past the post is crowned the Champion. The finals system is okay in terms of entertainment and so forth, but it is quite harsh for the initial side that win's the competition to unfortunately bow out during the finals series."

In saying that, we have been given a few months to prepare for this so I guess there's not much of an excuse."

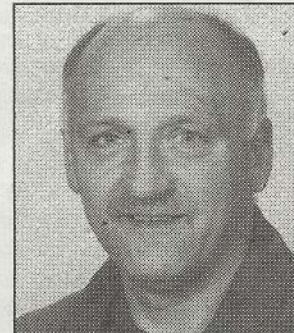


Ian Crook



FOOTBALL KINGZ — Ken Dugdale

Coach Ken Dugdale was unable to comment due to deadline reasons."



Ken Dugdale



National League Preview 2002/03

By Mark Savvasoulakis



Adelaide City Force



Gains: Goran Lozanovski (Alemannia Aachen Germany), Claudio Pelosi,

Gianluca Lagati, Diego Pellegrini (Savoia Italy), Michael Valkanis (Agios Nikolaos Greece), Shane Smeltz (Napier City Rovers New Zealand), Ian Martin (Northern Ireland).

Loses: Louis Brain (Sydney United), Mario Karlovic (Citadella Italy), Adrian Cagalig.

Players to watch out for: New Force recruit Shane Smeltz looks like he will have a great season as the Kiwi star has had a perfect pre-season scoring a handful of goals for Adelaide City.

The 21-year-old certainly has an eye for goal, winning last season's Golden Boot in the New Zealand Premier League with Napier City Rovers, the Kiwi international is looking to further his tally here in Australia.

Also, one of the most deadliest players from set pieces in the National League, Goran Lozanovski will also be one to watch out for. His venomous left foot has stranded many keepers in past sea-

sons as new coach Charlie Villani hopes Goran's 'Beckham', like free-kicks work this season.

Coach: Charlie Villani (New)



Goran Lozanovski

Brisbane Strikers



Gains: Steve Laybutt (Olympic Sharks), Chris Scuderi (QAS), Anthony Roche (Wynnum).

Loses: Paul Foster (retired), Shane Smeltz (Adelaide City Force), Michael Baird (South Melbourne), Nathan Coo (Inter Milan Italy).

Players to watch out for: Last year's National League Player of the Year Fernando Rech will obviously be the main man for the Strikers yet again this season.

The skilful Brazilian certainly packs many tricks up his sleeve that have bedazzled many defenders in the National League so far.

Former Australian international Steve Laybutt will also be one to look out for as the former Feyenoord star looks set to resurrect his footballing career with the Strikers this season.

Young Matthew McKay also looks the goods as the current U20 international looks set to further his experience during this year's National League.

Coach 'Kossie' will be hoping to repeat the suc-

cess the club achieved during last season's National League campaign with a hopeful top six finish this year.

Beware of the Strikers!

Coach: John Kosmina



Fernando Rech

Football Kings



Gains: Patricio Almendra (Santiago Morning Chile), Mark Beldham (North Shore United New Zealand), Raf de Gregorio (Dortrecht Holland), Darren Young (Waitakere City).

Michael Utting, Jonathon Tate (Napier City Rovers), Mark Dempsey (North Shore), Nick Haig (Western Suburbs).

Loses: Michael Theoklitos (Blackpool England), Vinko Buljbasic (Melbourne Knights), John Markovski (Preston Lions), Robbie Hooker, Sean Douglas, Levent Osman (Tampere United Finland), Gerard Davis (Tampere United Finland), Campbell Banks, George Gouzioulis (Tampere Rovers Singapore).

Players to watch out for: One of the Kings most consistent players last season, striker Paul Urlovic will be Ken Dugdale's main man up front. The skilful striker bagged nine goals for the Kings last season, the club's top scorer hopes to repeat that effort this year.

Also, unknown to many soccer followers here, Chilean international Patricio Almendra will also

be a player to lookout for. Having played many international matches with Chile, his experience on a global scale will certainly help the Kings avoid the wooden spoon this year.

Coach: Ken Dugdale (New)



Paul Urlovic

Marconi Stallions



Gains: Robbie Enes (Northern Spirit), Tony Perinich (Wollongong Wolves), Darren

McDonald (overseas), Tony Sekulic (Mainz Germany), Steve Fitzsimmons (Parramatta Power), Goran Talevski (Sydney United), Stacy Alogdellis (St George).

Loses: John Maisano (Greenock Morton Scotland), Marco Maisano (Greenock Morton Scotland), Sasa Radulovic (RW Oberhausen Germany), Raphael Boye, Norman Tome, James Afkos, Brendan Renaud (Parramatta Power), Michael Beauchamp (Parramatta Power), Royce Brownlie, Bob Catlin (retired).

Players to watch out for: A star in the making youngster Alex Brosque will certainly be the main attraction at Marconi Stadium this season.

The former AIS graduate grabbed headlines in the off-season by taking out the Player of the Tournament during the Festival Cup with the U20 Australian international side. His array of skills

and ability to beat defenders with his brilliant first touch are what make's this 19-year-old so special.

Also, former Socceroo Robbie Enes will also help strengthen the Stallions midfield this season. The hard-working star has come across from rivals Northern Spirit and hopes to put on a good display for his new club and coach Raul Blanco.

Coach: Raul Blanco (New)



Alex Brosque

Melbourne Knights



Gains: Andrew Hrehoresin (Melbourne Knights Youth), Henry Fa'Arodo (Fawkner Blues), Adrian Cervinski

(Northern Spirit), Leon Buhic (Mostar Bosnia), Nikola Sabljak (South Melbourne), Isyan Erdogan (Whittlesea Stallions), Lubo Lapsansky (Parramatta Power), Vinko Buljbasic (Kings FC).

Loses: Joel Porter (Olympic Sharks), Sasa Ognjenovski (Panachaiki Greece), Andy Vargas, Antonio Da Costa, Ivo De Jesus, Kresimir Marusic, Darren McGrath, Anthony Pelikan

Players to watch out for: The much talked about Cook Islands international Henry Fa'Arodo will be one of 'Stabba', Marth's key men this season.

The zippy striker is known for his quickness with ball, and after spending a solid season with Victorian Premier League outfit Fawkner Blues wowing the spectators at every match, Fa'Arodo looks set to put on an even bigger show in Australia's elite competition.

Croatian import Leon Buhic is also looking forward towards the new National League sea-

son as the ace striker has been renowned for scoring many goals in his past clubs in Croatia, Germany and most recently Bosnia.

Coach: Andrew Marth



Henry Fa'Arodo

Newcastle United



Gains: Adam Griffiths (Northern Spirit), Ryan Griffiths (Northern Spirit),

Steve Eagleton (Parramatta Power), Jobe Wheelhouse (AIS), Keegan Wolfenden (AIS), Tom Willis (QAS), Scott Thomas (Northern Spirit).

Loses: Daniel McBreen (Universitatea Craiova Romania), Todd McManus, Brad Swancott, Anthony Surjan, John Majurovski, Tallan Martin.

Players to watch out for: Young promising custodian Tom Willis will certainly give current keeper Daniel Beltrame some competition under the sticks this season as the current U20 international has been rated amongst one of the best keepers in his age group.

The talented shot stopper had a brilliant tournament with the U20 squad in Adelaide this year and hopes to get his chance this season by starting for the Newcastle United squad.

Strikers Joel Griffiths and Alex Moreira will also be at their best in providing the Novacastrians the best possible attack, especially in the scoring department.

Coach Ian Crook will look towards his experienced players to guide through their younger lads this year.

Coach: Ian Crook



Joel Griffiths



National League Preview 2002/03

By Mark Savva



Northern Spirit



Gains: Alex Tobin (Parramatta Power), Vuko Tomasevic (Bonnyrigg White Eagles), Ian Ferguson (Dunfermline Scotland), Adam Kwasnik (Parramatta Power), Hamilton Thorp (Many Warringah Dolphins), Dylan MacAllister (Olympic Sharks), Jonathan Richter (AIS).

Loses: Pablo Cardozo (Parramatta Power), Adrian Cervinski (Melbourne Knights), Scott Thomas (Newcastle United), Robbie Enes (Marconi Stallions), Matthew Engele (Chievo Verona Italy), Ben Stevens (Glasgow Rangers Scotland), Stephen Dobbie (Glasgow Rangers Scotland), Marcus Stergiopoulos, Craig Foster (retired).

Players to watch out for: Young strikers Adam Kwasnik and former U17 Joey Dylan MacAllister will provide the fire-power for new coach Lawrie

McKinna this season. Youth will be the main theme in the Spirit's new look squad this season however the experience of Alex Tobin and Julian Watts at the back accompanied by former Scottish international Ian Ferguson in the midfield should give squad more depth.

Coach: Lawrie McKinna (New)



Dylan MacAllister

Julian Watts

Parramatta Power



Gains: Pablo Cardozo (Northern Spirit), Royce Brownlie (Marconi Stallions), Brad Maloney (Perth Glory), Alvin Ceccoli (Wollongong Wolves), Brendan Renaud (Marconi Stallions), Peter Zorbas (Olympic Sharks), Ray Younis (Fairfield Bulls), Kosta Salapasis (Kallithea Greece), Beren Sullivan (Wollongong Wolves), Michael Beauchamp (Marconi Stallions), Chris Sharpe (Southampton England), Chris Cahill, Jack Sobczyk (Fraser Park), Nick Stavroulakis.

Loses: David Barrett (Sydney United), Alex Tobin (Northern Spirit), Adam Kwasnik (Northern Spirit), Steve Eagleton (Newcastle United), Brett Holman (Feyenoord & Excelsior on loan), Michael Brown (Feyenoord & Excelsior on loan), Les Pogliacomi (Oldham England), Lubo Lapsansky (Melbourne Knights), Peter Bennett, Zlatko Arambasic, Luke Roodenburg, Steve Fitzsimmons (Marconi).

Players to watch out for: Pivotal star striker Pablo Cardozo will be looking to add a further 17 plus goals this season for his new club the Power. His main aim this season is to hopefully win some silverware, something the 29-year-old has yet to experience in his footballing career so far.

Providing Cardozo with the services will be talented midfielder Brad Maloney and former U20 international Kosta Salapasis. Both midfielders will be looking towards a big season for their new club as new coach Nick Theodorakopoulos will demand success from his players this year.

Coach: Nick Theodorakopoulos (New)



Pablo Cardozo

Perth Glory



Gains: Adrian Caceras (Southampton), Andre Gumprecht (FSV Zwickau Germany), Ben Blake (Wollongong Wolves), Jaime Coyne (Perth SC), Shaun Kilkelly (Future Glory).

Loses: Brad Maloney (Parramatta Power), Tony Franken, Alistair Edwards (retired), Gareth Naven (retired), Dion Valle (retired).

Players to watch out for: The sharpshooting duo of Damian Mori and Bobby Despotovski upfront will certainly be Mich's main men this season. The pair notched up thirty-two goals between the two last season and one thing's for sure, both strikers will be after more in the new

season this year.

The hoodoo of not being able to finish the job by winning the Grand-Finals will also be one aim the Glory lads will try and defeat during the 2002/03 National League campaign.

Coach: Mich d'Avray



Bobby Despotovski

Damian Mori

Olympic Sharks



Gains: George Souris (Wollongong Wolves), Matthew Hilton (QAS), Joel Porter (Melbourne Knights), Mark Byrnes (Fris-Agent), Franco Parisi.

Loses: Lindsay Wilson (PSV Eindhoven Holland), Steve Laybutt (Brisbane Strikers), Elias Augerinos (retired), Peter Zorbas (Parramatta Power), Damon Collina (Sydney United), Fred Agius, Glenn Moore.

Players to watch out for: New Sharks recruit Joel Porter is currently one of Australia's best youth talent coming through the ranks, Porter will certainly be one of the Sharks main men this season.

Following Porter will also be another new

Shark, young 16-year-old Matthew Hilton, who promises to be one of the finds of the season for last year's Grand-Final winners.

Coach: Gary Phillips



Joel Porter

South Melbourne



Gains: Zeljko Susa (Hadjuk Split Croatia), Michael Baird (Brisbane Strikers), Dean Anastasiadis (Wollongong Wolves), Bill-Damianos (Kallithea Greece).

Loses: Con Boutisianis, Nick Sabljak (Melbourne Knights), Michael Petkovic (Trabzonspor Turkey), Clayton Bell, Joe Bacak, Chris Jones

Players to watch out for: New recruit Michael Baird has already gained the attention of the influential South fans this season as the former Strikers star has scored a handful of goals during the blue and white's pre-season matches.

Look out for current U20 international Massimo Murodca in the midfield and the experience of Fausto De Amicis and Mehmet Durakovic in defence to lead the Blues to a hopeful top six finish this season.

Coach: Danny Wright (New)



Massimo Murodca

Sydney United



Gains: Louis Brain (Adelaide City Force), Damon Collina (Olympic Sharks), Vanja Ivesa (Croatia), Boris Pavic (Croatia), Bozidar Cacic (Croatia), Anthony Dumanis (Adelaide Galaxy), David Barrett (Parramatta Power), Slavomir Lukac (Slovakia), Mark Rudan (Aachen Germany).

Loses: Vilson Knezevic, Ante Moric (Fraser Park), Goran Talevski (Marconi), Ivan Zelje, Sebastian Sinovic.

Players to watch out for: Former Adelaide Force youngster Louis Brain has delighted the coaching staff during their pre-season matches thus far. The former U17 Joey star will no doubt flourish under the watchful eye of coach Branko Culina who hopes to get into the top six this year.

One player you certainly won't be able to miss is seven-foot giant Vanja Ivesa. A Croatian import, the giant star will be United's main shot-stopper for the new season.

Coach: Branko Culina



Louis Brain

Wollongong Wolves



Gains: Jacob Timpano (NSWIS), Shane Lyons (Belconnen Blue Devils), Andrew Crews (Leichhardt Tigers), Shane Lockhart (Wollongong Youth Side), Vedran Jaganjac (Wollongong Youth Side), Daniel Aliffi, Matthew Galea.

Loses: George Souris (Olympic Sharks), Dean Anastasiadis (South Melbourne), Greg Sharland (Charlton England), Beren Sullivan (Parramatta Power), Tony Perinich (Marconi Stallions), Paul Reid (Bradford City England), Con Anthopoulos, Ben Blake (Perth Glory).

Players to watch out for: Experienced midfielder Dino Mennillo will again be one of the Wolves major players for new season.

The left-footed star will be joined by experienced campaigners David Cervinski, David Huxley and Stuart Young, as the trio hope to resurrect the once mighty Wolves.

Keep an eye out for young 16-year-old defender Jacob Timpano, certainly a player for the future at the 'gong.

Coach: Ron Corry



Dino Mennillo

Potential Youth Prospects For Season 2002/03

Adelaide City Force - Ian Martin (Goalkeeper)
Brisbane Strikers - Chris Scuderi (Midfielder)
Football Kingz - Jonathan Taylor (Goalkeeper)
Marconi Stallions - Eric Anabalou (Striker)
Melbourne Knights - Serkan Oksuz (Striker)
Newcastle United - Tom Willis (Goalkeeper)
Northern Spirit - Jonathan Richter (Midfielder)
Olympic Sharks - Matthew Hilton (Striker)
Parramatta Power - Pedrag Bojic (Defender)
Perth Glory - Anthony Danze (Midfielder)
South Melbourne - Stephen Pace (Midfielder)
Sydney United - Milan Bosnar (Defender)
Wollongong Wolves - Jacob Timpano (Defender)



2002 National League Squad Listings



Adelaide City

Daniel Godley, Gianluca Lagati, Iain Fyfe, Ante Kovacevic, Diego Pellegrini, Matthew Kemp, Lucas Pantelis, Carl Veart, Shane Smeltz, Aurelio Vidmar, Goran Lozanovski, Scott Tunbridge, Kristian rees, Aaron Goulding, Michael Valkanis, David Terminello, Ivan Karlovic, Claudio Pelosi, Iain Martin, Mislav Saric, Nick Budin.



Brisbane Strikers

Jason Kearton, Richie Alagich, Shane Stefanutto, Jonathan McKain, Stuart McLaren, Peter Grierson, Fernando Rech, Adam Webber, Kris Trajanovski, John Carbone, David Pilic, Wayne Heath, Daniel Dreger, Matthew McKay, Lawrence Drake, Steve Laybutt, Chris Scuderi, Anthony Roche.



Football Kingz

Jonathon Taylor, Mark Atkinson, Jonathon Perry, Chris Jackson, Mark Burton, Patricio Almendra, Jeff Campbell, Andrew Vlahos, Heremaia (Harry) Ngata, Paul Dempsey, Hiroshimi Miyazawa, James Bannatyne, Mark Beldham, Raf de Gregorio, Darren Young, Michael Utting, Jonathan Tate, Nick Haig.



Marconi Stallions

Michael Turnbull, Chad Gibson, Shane Webb, Mark Babic, Angelo Costanzo, Dominic Longo, Tony Perinich, Darren McDonald, Robert Enes, Alex Brosque, Grant Last, Eric Anabalon, Christian Care, Tony Sekulic, Steve Fitzsimmons, Goran Talevski, Stacy Alogdellis.



Melb Knights

Martin John, Daniel Piorkowski, Rodrigo Vargas, Antun Kovacic, Steve Horvat, Andrew Marth, Daniel Vasilevski, Daniel Rocco, Leon Buhic, Nikola Sabljak, Xhezair Sulemani, Ivan Jolic, Boris Ovcin, Daniel Debevc, Henry Fa'Arudo, Adam Hrehoresin, Serkan Oksuz, Lubo Lapsansky, Adrian Cervinski, Isyan Erdogan, Vinko Buljabasic.



Newcastle Utd

Daniel Beltrame, Michael Prentice, Andrew Roberts, Chris Zoricich, Scott Thomas, Matthew Bingley, Travis Dodd, Mark Wilson, Joel Griffiths, Alex Moreira, Peter Tsekenis, Scott Baillie, Milan Blagojevic, Ryan Griffiths, Adam Hughes, Joseph Schirripa, Esala Mas, Mitchell Johnson, Adam Griffiths, Tom Willis, Keega Wolfenden, Robbie Middleby, Jobe Wheelhouse, Steve Eagleton.



Northern Spirit

Lupce Acevski, Julian Watts, Simon Bell, Noel Spencer, Alex Tobin, Robbie Trajkovski, Andrew McDermott, Ian Ferguson, Adam Kwasnik, Troy Cranney, John Hutchinson, Michael Cartwright, Vuko Tomasevic, Brent Fisher, Alex Wilkinson, Paul Henderson, Sean Walsh, Matthew Osman, Steven Baveas, Mitchell Prentice, Aaron Burgess, Jonathan Richter, Matthew Hunter, Jacob Rex, Adam Foti, Russell Woodruffe, Dylan MacAllister.



Olympic Sharks

Clint Bolton, George Souris, Paul Kohler, Ante Juric, Wayne Srhoj, Tom Pondeljak, Ante Milicic, Troy Halpin, Jade North, Greg Owens, Matt Hilton, Jeromy Harris, Joel Porter, Zenon Caravella, Brett Hughes, Mortan Cawley, Elias Demourtzidis, Andrew Packer, Andrew Durante, Hiroyuki Ishida, Mark Byrnes, Franco Parisi.



Parramatta Power

Liam Reddy, Pedrag Bojic, Royce Brownlie, Alvin Ceccoli, Nick Orlic, Michael Beauchamp, Matt Thompson, Wayne O'Sullivan, Brad Maloney, Pablo Cardozo, Damien Brown, Kosta Salapasis, Peter Gavaghan, Matthew Langdon, Ray Younis, Jacek Sobczyk, John Buonavoglia, Brendan Renaud, Chris Sharpe, Ahmad Elrich, Joe Vrkic, Peter Zorbas, Beren Sullivan, Chris Cahill, Nick Stavroulakis.



Perth Glory

Jason Petkovic, Matt Horsley, Jamie Harnwell, Bradley Hassell, Craig Deans, Andre Gumprecht, Scott Miller, Anthony Danze, Nick Mrdja, Bobby Despotovski, Michael Garcia, Adrian Caceres, Edgar Aldrighi, Damian Mori, Gary Faria, Shane Pryce, Vince Matassa, Antonio Naglieri, David Tarka, Todd Harnwell, Ben Blake, Jaime Coyne, Shaun Kilkelly.



Sth Melb

Dean Anastasiadis, Steve Iosifidis, Fausto De Amics, Mehmet Durakovic, Robert Liparoti, David Clarkson, Steve Panopoulou, Vaughan Coveny, Paul Trimboli, Peter Buljan, Zeljko Susa, Radimir Sekulovski, Vince Lia, Stephen Pace, Nick Tolios, Massimo Murodcca, Michael Baird, Patrick Kisorbo, Eugene Galekovic, Bill Damianos



W Wolves

Andrew Crews, Jacob Timpano, Robert Stanton, David Cervinski, Alex Castro, Dustin Wells, Shane Lyons, Sean Babic, Stuart Young, Naum Sekulovski, Dino Mennillo, Buddy Farah, David Huxley, Harvey Rodriguez, Scott Whalan, Vedran Jaganjac, Shane Lockhart, Daniel Aliffi.



Sydney United

Vanja Ivesa, Bozidar Cacic, Boris Pavic, Paul Bilokapic, David Barrett, Nahual Arrarte, Slavomir Lukac, Mile Jedinak, Gabriel Mendez, Christian Cevenini, Damon Collina, Vince Savoca, Michael Santalab, Louis Brain, Commis Menapi, Michael Cunico, Jon Angelucci, Brendon Santalab, John Perosh, Michael Cindric, Daniel Watkins, Anthony Dumanis, Milan Bosnar, Mark Rudan.

ABSW PREDICTIONS 2002/03

* Name: Otto Bader (Wollongong Correspondent)

Top 6 Predictions: Perth Glory, Olympic Sharks, Newcastle United, Parramatta Power, Brisbane Strikers, South Melbourne

First Coach To Be Sacked? Names do not come in mind at the moment however a club that is not performing and not gaining results will see the coach go.

Player To Watch Out For? I think the unknown youngsters will fair well in this seasons National League. Examples like Dustin Wells and Liam Austin could make big names for themselves this year

Top Scorer? Too many strikers to note that could win the title.

Wooden Spoon? Either the Kingz, Northern Spirit or the Melbourne Knights.

* Name: Joe Russo (Sydney Correspondent and Serie A Writer)

Top 6 Predictions: Perth Glory, Olympic Sharks, South Melbourne, Parramatta Power, Brisbane Strikers and Newcastle United.

First coach to be sacked: Charlie Villani (Adelaide City Force)

Player to watch: Michael Prentice (Newcastle United) and Adam Kwasnik (Northern Spirit)

Top Scorer: Ante Milicic

Wooden Spoon: Melbourne Knights

*Name: Adam Mark (Media and Marketing Manager of the NSWFF)

Top 6 Predictions: Perth Glory, South Melbourne, Newcastle United, Parramatta Power, Football Kingz, Marconi Stallions.

First Coach To Be Sacked? Danny Wright (South Melbourne)

Player To Watch Out For? Patrick Kisorbo (South Melbourne)

Top Scorer? Pablo Cardozo

Wooden Spoon? Sydney United

*Name: Mark Stavroulakis (Editor of ABSW)

Top 6 Predictions: Olympic Sharks, Perth Glory, Parramatta Power, Newcastle United, Adelaide City Force, South Melbourne.

First Coach To Be Sacked? Ken Dugdale

Player To Watch Out For? Kosta Salapasis (Parramatta Power)

Top Scorer? Damian Mori

Wooden Spoon? Wollongong Wolves

*Name: Daniel Kuzlow (ABSW Staff Writer)

Top 6 Predictions: Parramatta Power, Perth Glory, South Melbourne, Olympic Sharks, Newcastle United, Adelaide City

First Coach To Be Sacked? Laurie McKinna

Player To Watch Out For? Adrian Caceras (Perth Glory)

Top Scorer? Pablo Cardozo

Wooden Spoon? Wollongong Wolves

*Name: Allan Crisp (Adelaide Correspondent)

Top 6 Predictions: Olympic Sharks, Perth Glory, Adelaide City Force, Brisbane Strikers, South Melbourne, Parramatta Power.

First Coach To Be Sacked: Nobody.

Player To Watch Out For: Shane Smeltz (Adelaide City Force)

Top Scorer: Damian Mori

Wooden Spoon: Kingz FC

*Brendon Davis (Melbourne Correspondent)

Top 6 Predictions: Newcastle, Perth Glory, South Melbourne, Sydney United, Parramatta, Sydney Olympic.

First Coach Sacked: Ron Corry (Wolves)

Surprise Packet: Sydney United

It may happen: 1. Garry Phillips is replaced as coach of the Olympic Sharks during the year

2. Auckland Kingz withdraw from the NSL mid-season for financial reasons

3. Adelaide start the season so well, but fall away when it matters most

*Vincent Vartulli (ABSW Youth Writer)

Top 6 Predictions: Perth Glory, Newcastle United, Parramatta Power, Olympic Sharks, Marconi Stallions

First Coach To Be Sacked? Charlie Villani (Adelaide City Force)

Player To Watch Out For? Franco Parisi

Top Scorer? Franco Parisi

Wooden Spoon? Auckland Kingz

*Richard Kreider (Perth Correspondent)

Top 6 Predictions: Name: Perth Glory, Parramatta Power, Newcastle United, Olympic Sharks, Northern Spirit, South Melbourne.

First Coach To Be Sacked? Ron Corry

Player To Watch Out For? Ian Ferguson (Northern Spirit)

Top Scorer? Damian Mori

Wooden Spoon? Melbourne Knights

*Ben Moring (ABSW Advertiser)

Top 6 Predictions: Perth Glory, Parramatta Power, Northern Spirit, South Melbourne, Olympic Sharks, Newcastle United.

First Coach To Be Sacked? Ron Corry

Player To Watch Out For? Massimo Murodcca - Alex Brosque

Top Scorer? Damian Mori

Wooden Spoon? Wollongong Wolves

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2002 STATE LEAGUE PRESENTATION DINNER

By Greg Stock

Hajduk Wanderers striker Tim Gledhill was awarded the NSW Soccer Federation Silver Medal as the 2002 Winter Super League Player of the Year in a glittering ceremony at Le Montage in Leichhardt last Friday night, hosted by Andrew Orsatti from SBS Sport.

Gledhill polled 17 votes to finish one ahead of Sydney University utility Luke MacDougall with 16 votes, with Martin Bourke (Macarthur Rams), Orhan Dincer (Dulwich Hill), George Issa (MSC Liverpool) and Andy Stratford (Ryde City) a further vote behind.

Sadly, Gledhill was in Queensland for his team mate JJ Ellul's wedding with Wanderers skipper Mark Abi-Arrage on hand to accept the award on his behalf. "It's a real shame Tim couldn't be here to accept the award" said Abi-Arrage, "but I know that he'll be very excited and proud to have won."

A former Ryde City junior, Gledhill made the switch to Hajduk three seasons ago, and hasn't looked back. Under the coaching of Phil Pavela and Tom McCulloch, Gledhill has blossomed into his sides number one striker, with his haul of 13 goals this year a tribute to his ability to find the net.

"His best assets are his size and speed" said Abi-Arrage. "For a big guy he can cover the first few metres very quickly and when he stretches out he can match it for pace with any other player in the league. When the ball is in the air he is near unbeatable, at over six feet tall he can use that size to great effect with headers, or just by using his frame in shielding the ball."

His coach, former Socceroo Tommy McCulloch, also paid tribute to Gledhill describing him as a real talent. "He is a very gifted individual, but the one thing that has him stand out from other players is his ability to learn and give one hundred percent" said McCulloch. "Even if things aren't going right for us, Tim still knuckles down and plays the same way every week and as a coach, that is all you can ever ask from a player."

It was a big night for Hajduk Wanderers, as their coach Tom McCulloch picked up the award for coach of the year. In his debut season as a senior coach, the former Socceroo midfielder, took his side from tenth position last year to runners-up.

"It's been a great season for us" said McCulloch, "and I'm very honoured to have been chosen as the coach of the year. If you had have told me at the beginning of the season, that we would have finished third and made the Grand Final, I would have said your crazy."

But the boys really believed in themselves and it was very satisfying for me as a coach to see the



NSW Soccer Federation 2002 Silver Medal Winner — Tim Gledhill (Hajduk Wanderers).

players improve their individual skills and develop as a team."

As a midfielder in the NSL with Marconi, APIA-Leichhardt and Sydney City, McCulloch made 274 appearances, scoring 47 goals and went on to make 37 appearances in the Green and Gold in a playing career which spanned fourteen seasons. Forced to retire prematurely due to a knee injury, McCulloch has made the transition to senior coach comfortably imparting some of his own knowledge on the players in his side.

"Coaching is definitely very different to playing but it's something that I do enjoy immensely and when you have good years like this, it really makes

the job worthwhile" said McCulloch. "The club and the committee have all been great to work with and that has helped create a good team atmosphere around the place and helped us achieve the things we have this year."

While McCulloch and Gledhill are yet to agree terms for season 2003, club president Charles Abdilla is not letting the grass grow under his feet. "I really want to congratulate both Tommy and Tim for winning the awards and express our happiness at their achievements this year" said Abdilla. "We would definitely like both of them to be a part of our plans next season and we'll be discussing things more formally in the next few

weeks."

The other major award recipient at the 2002 NSW Soccer Federation Awards night was Rockdale City Suns.

Having won the premiership and championship double in first grade, and the Under-19 premiership, the Suns also picked up the coveted Club Championship trophy. With a total of 438 points, Rockdale pipped Manly-Warringah Dolphins in the final round by four points in front of Hajduk Wanderers with 354 points and Fraser Park with 349 points to add to their already impressive haul for the season.

"This year has been a sensational season for the club" said Technical Director of Coaching Bill Pilovski. "Our objective this year was to put together a strong squad in all three grades and go after the title and picking up the club championship award is a wonderful honour given the closeness of this seasons competition. It was a great result for us and I must give credit to the committee and the coaching staff for giving us the platform from which to build"

Also picking up an award for Goalkeeper of the year was the Suns, Peco Trajcevski. A winner of the Division One player of the year and goalkeeper of the year award back in 2000 when in the colours of Dulwich Hill, Trajcevski enjoyed another strong season to again confirm his status as one of the best goalkeepers in the league. Playing every game for Rockdale this past season, Trajcevski kept eight clean sheets in 24 matches conceding just 21 goals all season, a testament to his outstanding ability.

"It's a great honour to receive the award" said the quietly spoken Trajcevski. "It was a great season for us and I am really looking forward to the Premier League season and the opportunity to play at the next level."

Despite having had some nibbles from NSL clubs, Trajcevski is set to resign with the Suns as they seek to make an impact in the 2002/3 summer Premier League.

In the referees ranks, number one whistle blower for the third time in succession was none other than Nick Asargiotis. Asargiotis had yet another strong season culminating in the 2002 Super League Grand Final and beat a host of other strong candidates for the honour.

The retiring Boyd McGregor also picked up an award for his services towards refereeing after hanging up his whistle for the final time in 2002. A former Yugal first grade player, McGregor successfully made the transition to referee, and enjoyed more than a decade in the federation ranks. A special presentation award was also made to NSW Soccer Federation Financial Controller Beth Hetherington for her 40 years of loyal service to the federation.

NEW SOUTH WALES
FOOTBALL

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★ All information is courtesy of the
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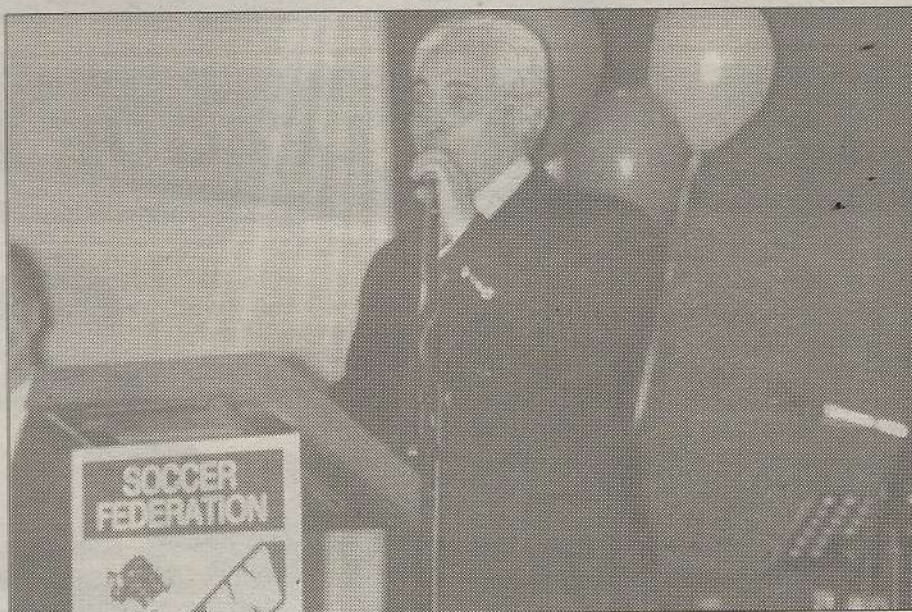
NSW Super League



2002 STATE LEAGUE DINNER PHOTO GALLERY by Carlos Furtado



Master of Ceremonies - Andrew Orsatti from SBS Sport.



NSW Soccer Federation President Tom A. Doumanis.



Boyd McGregor (left) was honoured for his services to refereeing by the President of the Australian Referee Federation-NSW Division, Mr Robert Colombo (right).



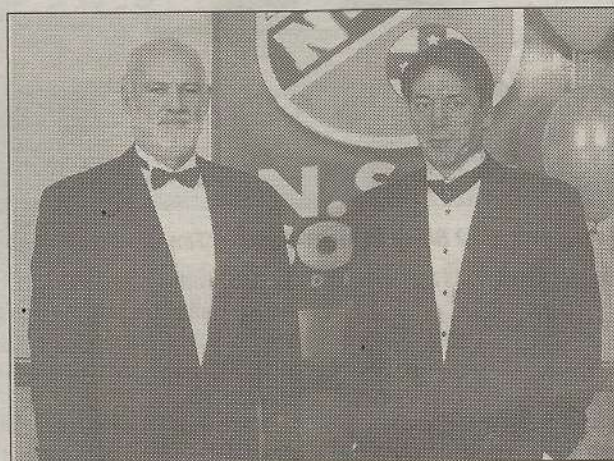
Senior Vice Chairman of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation Mr David Goodman and wife Margaret.



NSW Soccer Federation Financial Controller, Beth Hetherington, was honoured for her services to the Federation over 40 years.



2002 Golden Boot Winners (L-R) Hamilton Thorp, Shane Cevenini and Danny Poljak with Mr Bob Bott, Chairman of Lowe, Lippman, Bott-Insurance Brokers of NSW.



Soccer Australia Commissioner and Northern NSW Soccer Federation President, Mr Bill Walker (right) with General Manager of Northern Soccer Federation Mr Gary Screen (left).



Former Socceroo goalkeeper, Mike Gibson received the Division Two Player of the Year Award.



Mr Tom A. Doumanis (left) and NSW Treasurer Mr Howard Bradley (right) with Mr Bob Bott (centre) and a \$45,000 sponsorship cheque for the Federation.



A little less conversation little more action.



The women of NSW Soccer Federation.



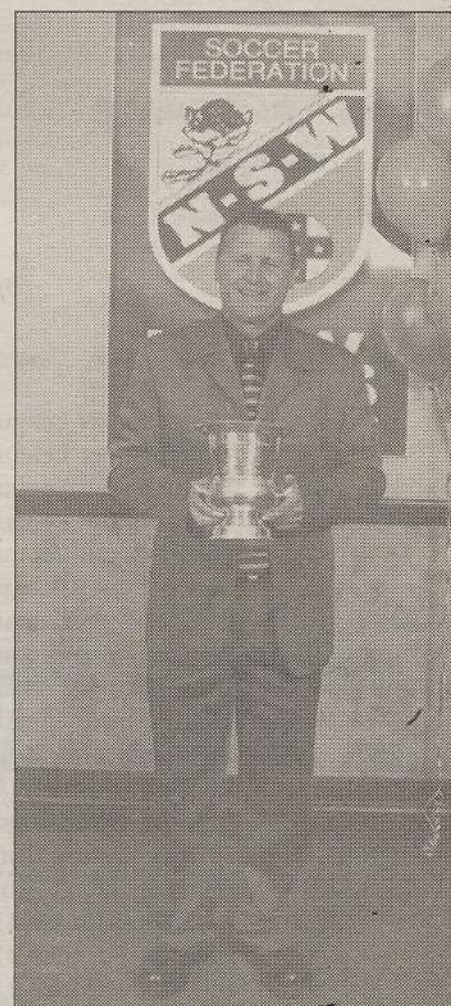
NSW Super League



2002 State League Major Award Winners



Hajduk Wanderers captain, Mark Abi-Arrage, accepted the Silver Medal on behalf of Tim Gledhill.



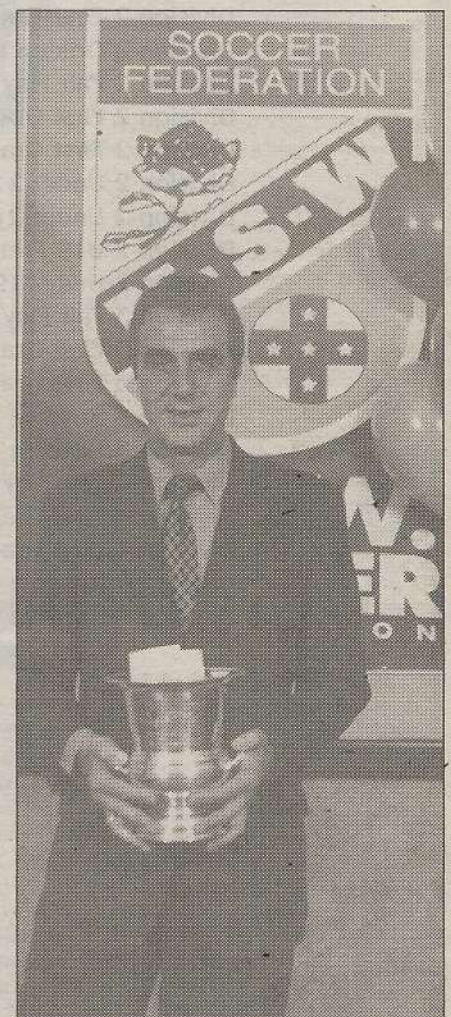
Coach of the Year Tommy McCulloch.

Silver Medal Points Scores Table

Tim Gledhill (Hajduk Wanderers)	.17
Luke Macdougall Syd Uni	.16
Martin Bourke Macarthur Rams	.15
Orhan Dincer Dulwich Hill	.15
George Issa MSC Liverpool	.15
Andy Stratford Ryde City	.15
Huseyin Bayhan Hurstville City Crescent Star	.14
Steve Berry Manly Warringah Dolphins	.14
Ryan Griffiths Manly Warringah Dolphins	.14
Hong Ryeal Ju Rockdale City Suns	.14
Robert Issa MSC Liverpool	.14
Robert Portelli Ryde City	.14
David Reid Macarthur Rams	.14
Eric Williams Macarthur Rams	.14

Winter Super League Club Championship Table

Rockdale City Suns	.438 points
Manly warringah Dolphins	.434 points
Hajduk Wanderers	.354 points
Fraser Park Jets	.349 points
Macarthur rams	.346 points
AC United	.330 points
Ryde City	.326 points
Dulwich Hill	.259 points
Hurstville City Crescent Star	.211 points
Sydney University	.209 points
MSC Liverpool	.152 points



Referee of the Year Nick Asargiotis.



Goalkeeper of the Year Peco Trajceviski.



Rockdale City Suns with their silverware.



NSW Super League



State League Presentation Dinner — List of Award Winners

2002 NEW SOUTH WALES SOCCER FEDERATION SILVER MEDAL WINNER

TIM GLEDHILL of Hajduk Wanderers

2002 WINTER SUPER LEAGUE COACH OF THE YEAR

TOMMY McCULLOCH of Hajduk Wanderers

2002 WINTER SUPER LEAGUE GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR

PECO TRAJCEVSKI of Rockdale City Suns

2002 NSW SF STATE LEAGUE REFEREE OF THE YEAR

Nick Asargiotis

2002 WINTER SUPER LEAGUE CLUB CHAMPIONS

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS

2002 NSW SF STATE LEAGUE MEDIA AWARD

THE ILLAWARRA MERCURY

Special Presentation by the Australian Soccer Referees Federation & NSW Division

Boyd McGregor for services to refereeing in NSW

Special Presentation by the NSW SF Board

Beth Hetherington for 40 years of service to NSW Soccer Federation

Winter Super League Fair Play Award
 Winter Super League Golden Boot Award
 Winter Super League First Grade Premiership Runners Up
 Winter Super League First Grade Premiership Winners
 Winter Super League Under 21's Player of the Year
 Winter Super League Under 21 Premiership Winners
 Winter Super League Under 21 Premiership Runners Up
 Winter Super League Under 19's Player of the Year
 Winter Super League U19 Premiership Winners
 Winter Super League U19 Premiership Runners Up
 Division 1 First Grade Player of the Year
 Division 1 Golden Boot Award
 Division 1 Fair Play Award
 Division 1 First Grade Premiership Winners
 Division 1 First Grade Premiership Runners Up
 Division 1 Under 21's Player of the Year
 Division 1 Under 21 Premiership
 Division 1 Under 21 Premiership Runners Up
 Division 1 Under 19's Player of the Year
 Division 1 U19 Premiership
 Division 1 Under 19 Premiership Runners Up
 Division 2 First Grade Player of the Year
 Division 2 Golden Boot Award
 Division 2 Fair Play Award
 Division 2 First Grade Premiership
 Division 2 First Grade Premiership Runners Up
 Division 2 Under 21 Premiership
 Division 2 Under 21 Premiership Runners Up
 Division 2 U19 Premiership Winners
 Division 2 Under 19 Premiership Runners Up
 Division 3 Fair Play Award
 Division 3 First Grade Premiership
 Division 3 First Grade Premiership Runners Up
 Division 3 Reserve Grade Premiership
 Division 3 Reserve Grade Premiership Runners Up
 Division 4 Fair Play Award
 Division 4 First Grade Premiership
 Division 4 First Grade Premiership Runners Up
 Division 4 Reserve Grade Premiership
 Division 4 Reserve Grade Premiership Runners Up

MSC Liverpool
 Hamilton Thorp (Manly Warringah Dolphins 17 goals)
 Manly Warringah Dolphins
 Rockdale City Suns
 Tim Simpson (Ryde City)
 Fraser Park Jets
 Hajduk Wanderers
 Juan Chavez (Ryde City)
 Rockdale City Suns
 Manly Warringah Dolphins
 Danny Poljak (White City)
 Danny Poljak (White City - 16 goals)
 Bathurst '75
 The Wanderers Cedars
 Western Rage
 Miroslav Maco (Mt Druitt Town)
 Mt Pritchard
 Western Rage
 Dalibor Drca (White City)
 Mt Druitt Town
 Mt Pritchard
 Mike Gibson (Schofields Scorpions)
 Shane Cevenini (Schofields Scorpions - 16 goals)
 Mingara Lakers
 Liverpool Bossy Soccer Club
 Nepean Association
 Nepean Association
 Hakoah
 Nepean Association
 Camden Tigers
 Hawkesbury City Soccer Club
 Springwood Soccer Club
 Greenisland Soccer Club
 Hawkesbury City Soccer Club
 Greenisland Soccer Club
 Australian Chinese Soccer Association
 Western Red Devils
 Roosters Football Club
 Birchgrove United SC
 Roosters Football Club

CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR

AC United	John Palmano
Dulwich Hill	Carlos Abreu
Fraser Park Jets	Roger Pereira
Hajduk Wanderers	Bernie Forster
Hurstville City Crescent Star	Atilla Atasever
Macarthur Rams	Carlos Martinez
Manly Warringah Dolphins	Ros Dale
MSC Liverpool	Rex Achurch
Rockdale City Suns	Nikola Petrovski
Ryde City	Vince Capizzi
Stanmore Hawks	Pelopidas Keuranos
Sydney University	Jim Zammit



NSW Divisions 1 & 2



J-P's Coaching Tips

Hi everyone,

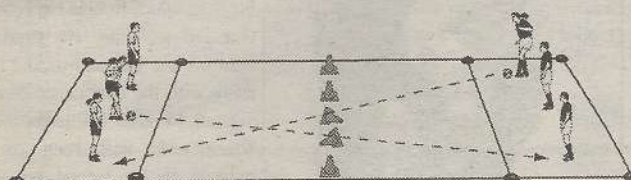
Well, what it week it was at the 2002 Soccer Australia - Girls National Championships at Coffs Harbour. Our Under 14's, coached by Allan Sheldrick, unfortunately lost the Grand Final to Queensland 3-1 after a strong week's performances.

The Under 17's, coached by Vicki Linton won the Grand Final on penalties against NSW Country after Aysha Adalis equalise for us in the last 30 seconds of normal time.

I was extremely impressed by the standard of competition and level of technical ability of all the girls. Numerous players were identified for future National representation. I'm sure with players like this emerging, we will be very well respected on the international stage for many years to come.

Now onto this week's tip Soccer is a very simple game. In order to win, you must finish the game having scored more goals than your opponents. Hence shooting is an important part of the game. Here are a few Shooting Drills and activities for you to try at your next session.

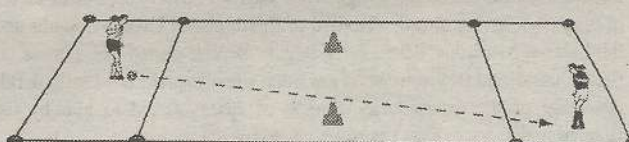
Knock Them Down



- Play the game with 2 balls if you have 3v3 or 1 ball if you have 2v2
- The object of the game is to knock down the last cone, even if the other team got all the other tall cones.
- This drill works for goalkeeper rolls as well.
- If you don't have tall cones, plastic bottles filled with water works just as well.

- The aim is to shoot the ball with their laces, or other shot or pass type being practised, in between the tall cones and below waist height.
- If 2v2, one player must pass the ball to the other player before they shoot. Make sure they push the ball in front of the other player when passing.

1v1 (or 2v2) Laces Shot Drill



- The players are not allowed in the middle area except to get the ball and then they must take it back to their area before shooting.

To make it harder, you can make a game of it. To score a goal, the players have to shoot the ball in between the tall cones and over the opponent's back line while keeping the ball below waist height.

Pass, Pass and Shoot Drill

- A passes to B (1) from the first flat cone (anticlockwise) (2). B then passes the ball back to A at the next flat cone (3) and shoots the ball at one of the tall cones (4)

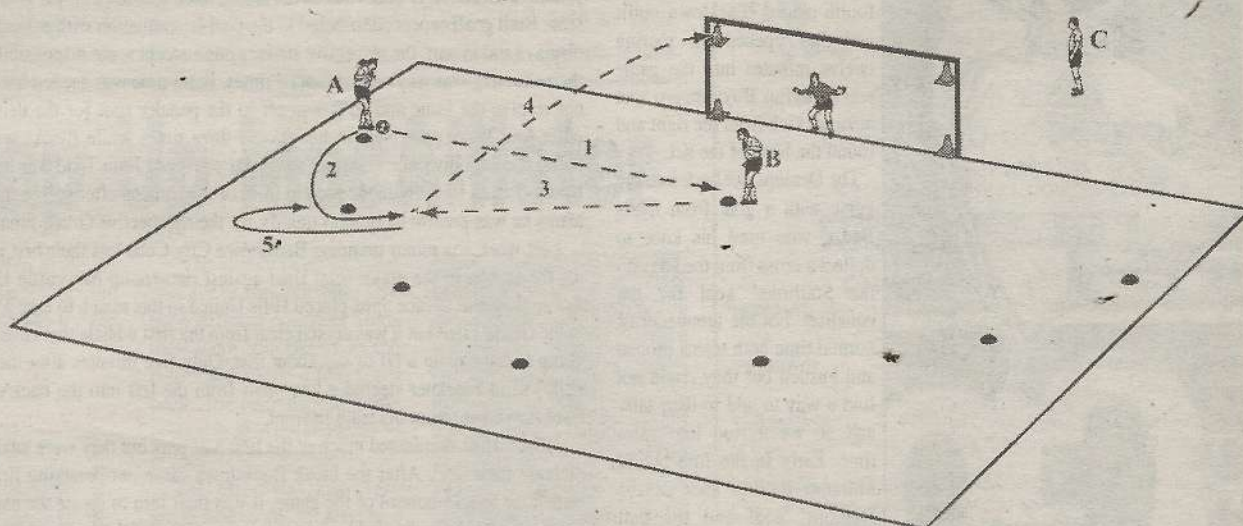
- C, or the goalkeeper, then retrieves or feeds another ball back into A at the cone the shot came from
- The drill then repeats from the second flat cone.
- The drill is repeated until the player goes to the end of the flat cones and back (clockwise) to the start.
- Players A, B and C, the rotate jobs.
- Do the drill once where the player can only use their right foot, once where they can only use their left foot, and once when they can use whichever foot they like.
- The players can take first time shots or take a touch to control before shooting.

You can make it harder by getting player B to apply some pressure to player A before they shoot.

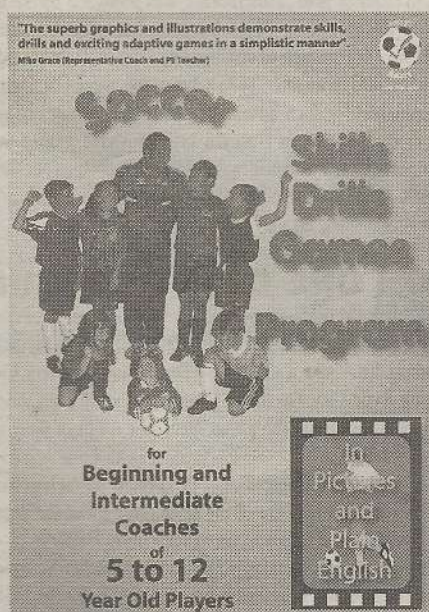
And there you have it. Shooting is an important part of the game for any player. Who knows when you will be in that perfect position to score the winner and take the trophy.

That's all for this week,
Until next
Happy Coaching

Jean-Paul de Marigny
Coaching and Development Manager
NSW Soccer Federation

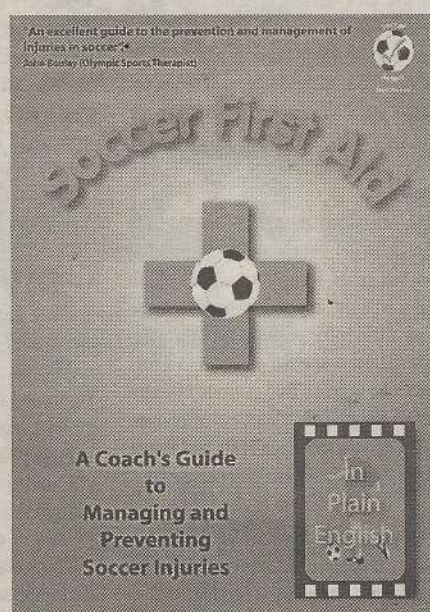


The pass, pass and shoot drill is also good for fitness training as well as shooting accuracy when done at speed.



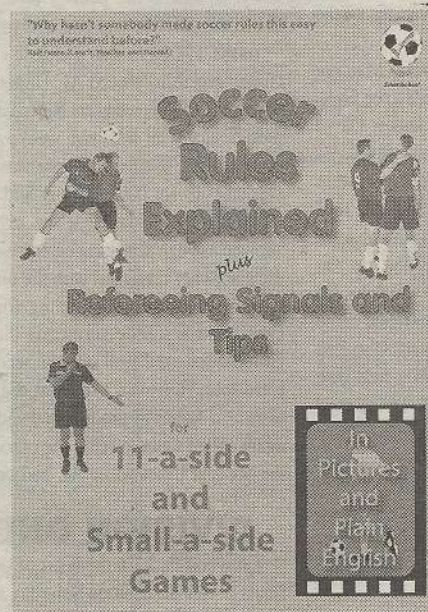
Are your Training Sessions Getting a Little Boring and Predictable?

So, you've inherited the job of coaching your child's soccer team, you were eager enough to do your junior and youth licence, but find yourself doing the same drills over and over again.



The kids are starting to work out there is nothing left in your coaching cupboard and you need to work on shooting, defending and corner's before the weekend's game. Whaddya Do?

Well the good news is help is available. The Soccer Select Series of Books provides the first time coach, or even the experienced gaffer a large range



of skills and drills to implement at your next training session.

As featured in J-P's Coaching Tips, the books use diagrams and photos in a clear, easy to understand format that allows for simple translation from page to pitch.

But wait, there's more, if you buy through the



NSW Soccer Federation you will get a special price compared to the recommended retail price, even less when you buy in bulk for all the other coaches in your club who are in the same predicament.

For more information, go to www.soccernsw.com.au, email info@soccernsw.com.au or phone (02) 9629 1800.



NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues



By Barry Davis

THE PRELIMINARY FINALS

Wonderful weather and fabulous football! What more could you possibly want? There was certainly an abundance of both in evidence over the weekend as nearly everyone entered the Preliminary Finals on either Saturday or Sunday. Except for the Division One Cadet League, we now know which teams will be competing in the Grand Finals over the coming weekend and we can expect to be treated to yet another fantastic festival of football.

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE

Jensen Park was the setting for the Premier Youth League games and quality was certainly the order of the day from beginning to end.

Action aplenty was in evidence in the 13s match between second-placed Blacktown City and third-placed Marconi Stallions. It was clear from the outset that the players from both teams had only one thing on their minds and they allowed themselves absolutely no distractions for the duration of the match.

Jason Naidovski became a hero for the Stallions when he found himself on the end of a superb attacking movement that Marconi had commenced from deep within their own half and he made absolutely no mistake from six metres in scoring the only goal of the match in the first half. Blacktown pressed hard in the second period but despite their best efforts there was to be no repeat of the comeback they had staged in the major semi final when they overcame a two goal deficit. Marconi's defences remained rock solid, no matter what the Demons threw at them.



Coincidence brought the same two clubs together in the 14s in a high quality clash that ended in controversy. Third-placed Marconi went into the match as slight favourites over the fourth-placed Blacktown outfit and they opened the scoring twelve minutes into the game when Tayfun Buyukopru met a corner kick from the right and found the back of the net.

The Demons got back into the game with a goal from Chris Bedzo who used his knee to deflect a cross from the left into the Stallions' goal for the equaliser. For the remainder of normal time both teams probed and hustled but they could not find a way to add to their tally and so we moved into extra time. Early in the first period Marconi took a shot at the Demons' goal and the ball appeared the strike a Blacktown defender in the chest from point-blank range. However,

the referee determined that the young Demon had, in his opinion, handled the ball inside the box and he awarded a penalty kick. Buyukopru strode forward to convert the spot kick and gave his team a "golden goal" victory in the process.

The 15s match produced a clash between minor premiers Marconi Stallions and third-placed Parramatta Eagles in a game that proved to be highly entertaining. Just two minutes had passed when the Eagles' striker David Wilson found the net after he had capitalised on a cross from the left.

The same player found himself on the end of another promising move in the 20th minute and he made no mistake as he rammed the ball into the roof of the net to give his team a healthy lead. Two minutes later Marconi were back in the event when a clever interchange of passes opened up the Parramatta defence and gave Jason Hwang a perfect opportunity which he did not waste. The second half was only six minutes old when the next goal came and this time it was from livewire Parramatta striker Ben Gough, who had been playing well throughout. He pounced on a loose ball from a free kick wide on the left and sent a thunderbolt into the back of the net. Try as they might, Marconi simply could not overcome the two goal arrears and so they have dropped out of the finals after a fabulous season in every other respect.

As the sun sank slowly in the west and the floodlights switch needed to be found, the 17s took the field for what proved to be an intriguing battle between competition runners-up Wollongong Wolves and third-placed Olympic Sharks. This was a match fought out in midfield where there was plenty of flair on display from both teams.

That the teams employed different styles of play added a great deal of interest to the contest. Wollongong's cultured short passing game helped them to create many scoring opportunities while Olympic's more direct approach saw them create an equal number of chances at the other end. At the completion of the first half there had been plenty of goalmouth action and some excellent goalkeeping on display but no goals, although it must be said that the Wolves did find the net on one occasion but the effort was ruled off-side.

After the break the action came thick and fast but the defences held firm and it was becoming obvious that it would take something special to produce the goal that would break the game. That eventually came with fourteen min-

utes remaining on the clock when Wollongong's David Giraldo took the ball forward and shrugged off several strong challenges before slipping his shot past the Sharks' goalkeeper. Olympic continued to press forward as they sought an equaliser but their best efforts were thwarted by the very determined Wolves' defensive play and so the match was decided by that single goal.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

Lambert Park at inner-city Leichhardt was the venue for the Super Youth League matches on Sunday and that was appropriate as the ground has seen many wonderful football matches over the past forty or more years.

The first match of the day was played out between 13s minor premiers Nepean and fifth-placed Bonnyrigg White Eagles who have been giant-killers in this series having already disposed of fourth-placed Eastern Suburbs and third-placed Macarthur Rams. Peter Daglis' Nepean started like a house on fire, as usual, and they were soon rewarded when Daniel Lonsdale took full advantage of the extraordinary amount of space offered to him by the Bonnyrigg defence to slam the ball home for a fifth minute opening goal.

Quarter-of-an-hour later Nepean increased their lead when Lonsdale converted a penalty kick. Just before half-time the White Eagles got back into the game when Mladin Tamburic cleverly turned on a ball in the box and placed it inside the upright, out of the reach of the goalkeeper. Bonnyrigg rolled up their sleeves after the break to have a go at their illustrious opponents but they could not break down the resolute Nepean defences.

Over the course of the game, Nepean had the better of the ball possession but they were unable to take full advantage of the number of opportunities they created. It was perhaps fitting that they had the final say in the very last minute of play when one of their number was brought down from behind in the box and Joel Gibbs had no problem in converting the spot kick.

From the outset of the 14s match competition runners-up Blacktown Association and fifth-placed Nepean Association went at each other like there was no tomorrow and it looked as though we would be in for a real treat of all-out attacking soccer. Alas, it was not to be. While there was plenty of penalty area action at both ends of the arena, there was not a single goal to be seen. Both goalkeepers contributed to the goal-less situation with magnificent displays and in part, the respective strikers must accept some responsibility as their shooting was wayward at crucial times. Extra time was needed but it did not resolve the issue and so it was off to the penalty spot for the deciders. After four kicks each Nepean had scored three times while Blacktown had found the net only once. Nepean's popular convenor John Todd was seen to be dancing an Irish Jig in the area in front of the canteen after seeing the two teams he was present to support qualify for their respective Grand Finals.

Last week 15s minor premiers Bankstown City Cubs lost their first match for the season in the major semi final against runners-up Newcastle United and so they had to face third-placed Hills United in this match to earn a place in the Grand Final but it was crystal clear from the first whistle that Hills were going to have quite a bit to say about that. Only five minutes after the start Hills' Scott Faulkner steered a low cross from the left into the back of the Bankstown net to put his team in front.

In fact, Hills dominated much of the first half play but they were unable to increase their lead. After the break Bankstown came out breathing fire and brimstone to take control of the game. It was their turn to create the chances but it took them twenty-eight minutes to convert one of them into an equaliser. It came when Robert Milevski turned on a ball on the edge of the box and then placed his angled shot beyond the reach of the goalkeeper. Just when it looked as though the match was headed for extra time things took a dramatic swing. With mere seconds remaining on the clock Hills won a free kick on the left just outside the penalty area. From the kick Stefan Pilgrim rose high above the defenders to nod in a superb header and give Hills the winner.

In the 17s there was a classic confrontation between second-placed Hills United and third-placed AC United, both of whom were desperate for another crack at minor premiers Newcastle United. AC had knocked Hills off in the preliminary semi final two weeks ago and went into this match with a spring in their step. Their confidence was in evidence throughout the match as they shaded Hills for both territory and possession.

That is not to say that the match was one-sided though as both teams showed enough attacking enterprise and gusto to delight the soccer purists but they were not rewarded with the much-needed goals. It must be said that both goalkeepers were in sparkling form and certainly kept their teams in the event. It was a little surprising that, given their lofty position on the table, Hills waited until well into the second half to push a second player into a forward role. However, even that did not produce a goal. Two periods of extra time also failed to produce a decider and so the penalty shoot-out was once again called upon to settle the outcome. After five kicks each Hills had found the net four times while AC had only managed to do so on three occasions.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE

Lynwood Park, in the heart of the Macarthur region, was the scene for the finals in this division on Saturday and once again champagne football was in evidence in each game.

In the 13s second-placed Ryde City faced up to fifth-placed Camden Tigers and it was to be the higher ranked team which progressed to the Grand Final. Camden had enjoyed a good finals series, winning both their earlier matches by a two goal margin but this was not to be their day. Tom McAlister scored a double while Asham Monfared and Andrew McKie added one each for Ryde and Camden's response came from Scott Clarkson.

The 14s match saw a clash between runners-up Mt Pritchard and third-placed Ryde City. On the day the Mounties held the high ground as they accounted for Ryde with goals from Joel Bray, Justin Ciabatti and Peter Vella

reversing the preliminary semi final result a fortnight ago.

Trevor Davis' third-placed Camden Tigers 15s showed that they are still a force to be reckoned with after their late-season slump. They overcame second-placed Schofields Scorpions who had beaten them easily in the preliminary semi final. This time Wayne Dillon scored both goals for the Tigers and the Camden defence held firm to deny the Scorpions a goal.

Camden's second-placed 17s were not quite so fortunate as they went down by the odd goal in five to fifth-placed Schofields Scorpions in a very entertaining game. Daniel Balzan and Gavin Smith both found the net for the Tigers but they were countered by goals from Gareth De Lange, Alex Krugga Kostava and a winner from Matthew Svarc.

PREMIER CADET LEAGUE

On Saturday the festivities at Jensen Park kicked off with two great Premier Cadet League matches to set the tone for the remainder of the day.

The 11s match saw a rematch between competition runners-up Olympic Sharks and third place getters Blacktown City. In the preliminary semi final two weeks ago the match was tied up at one-all after extra time with the Sharks getting the nod thanks to a penalty shoot-out victory.

This time the chances fell thick and fast to both teams as the end-to-end action kept the large crowd on the edge of their seats and at their vocal best. Blacktown's Scott Madden had two excellent opportunities to break the deadlock but his best efforts were denied by some top quality goalkeeping. With time ticking away at what seemed like breakneck speed it looked as though



the match would go to extra time before fate intervened.

With scarcely three minutes remaining on the referee's watch Blacktown won a corner kick on the right and that led to the inevitable goalmouth scramble from which Robbie Henretty emerged supreme. He strode onto a loose ball and tucked it away with the confidence of a veteran to give his team the winner. He will keep that moment in his mental scrapbook forever because it was his first-ever goal. This was truly a match of the highest standard and both teams are to be congratulated for their fine exhibition of quality soccer.

"Never mind the score line, look at the quality" could well have been the catch phrase at the conclusion of the 12s match after second-placed Northern Spirit had gone toe-to-toe with third-placed Olympic Sharks. Like the 11s before them, this

match exemplified the very best of junior soccer with both teams pressing hard from beginning to end. Spirit had the early luck when they went ahead inside the first two minutes after Brody Mooy had calmly slotted his chance into the bottom corner of the goal. Down but far from out, Olympic regained their composure and began to make some inroads of their own but they had absolutely no luck in front of goal. This lacking was punished by Spirit who added a second goal, this one from Blake Lucas, a mere two minutes after half-time. Even that was not enough to dampen the Sharks' fighting qualities as they sent players forward in an attempt to salvage the game but, inevitably, they were further punished for such adventure. With five minutes to go they were dealt another body blow when Huseyin Jasli provided a third goal for Spirit and then a minute later Dylan Saulwick added a fourth to put the icing on the cake for Spirit. Don't be fooled by the score line though because this match was far from a one-sided affair.

DIVISION ONE CADET LEAGUE

Cook Park at Mt Pritchard hosted the major and minor semi finals for this division on Sunday. Yes, that's right. They are one week behind the rest.

The 11s major semi final saw a clash between minor premiers Camden Tigers and runners-up Ryde City. On the day the Tigers were a bit too strong for Ryde and they have moved into the grand final as a result of their win by a single goal.

Camden Tigers coach Paul Burgess has performed miracles with his charges this season having them on top of the table throughout the year.

They're certainly going to be tough to bet in the Grand Final.

Third-placed Illawarra Lions met fourth-placed Schofields Scorpions in the minor semi final. Schofields provided a bit of a shock for the lads from the south coast as they tipped them out of the finals series with the narrowest possible win.

Minor premiers Schofields Scorpions met third-placed Ryde City in the 12s major semi final. The teams scored a goal apiece during normal time and neither was able to increase their tally during extra time so it was off to the penalty spot for the deciders. Ryde proved to be more efficient in this situation and have won the first Grand Final spot as a result, leaving Schofields to try to do it the hard way.

Photos from Super Youth League Preliminary Finals at Lambert Park.



NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues



FINAL SERIES RESULTS



PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE:					
PRELIMINARY FINAL:					
GRADE 13:	Marconi Stallions	1	Blacktown City Demons	0	
GRADE 14:	Marconi Stallions	2	Blacktown City Demons	1	Extra Time (1-1 Full Time)
GRADE 15:	Marconi Stallions	1	Parramatta Eagles	3	
GRADE 17:	Wollongong Wolves	1	Olympic Sharks	0	
SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE:					
PRELIMINARY FINAL:					
GRADE 13:	Nepean Association	3	Bonnyrigg WE	1	
GRADE 14:	Blacktown Association	1	Nepean Association	3	Penalties (0-0 full time, 0-0 extra time)
GRADE 15:	Banskton City Cubs	1	Hills United	2	
GRADE 17:	AC United	3	Hills United	4	Penalties (0-0 Full Time, 0-0 Extra Time)
DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE:					
PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL:					
GRADE 13:	Ryde City	4	Camden Tigers	1	
GRADE 14:	Ryde City	0	Mt Pritchard	3	
GRADE 15:	Schofield Scorpions	0	Camden Tigers	2	
GRADE 17:	Schofield Scorpions	3	Camden Tigers	2	Extra Time (2-2 Full Time)
PREMIER CADET LEAGUE:					
PRELIMINARY FINAL:					
GRADE 11:	Olympic Sharks	0	Blacktown City Demons	1	
GRADE 12:	Northern Spirit	4	Olympic Sharks	0	
DIVISION ONE CADET LEAGUE:					
MAJOR SEMI FINAL:					
GRADE 11:	Camden Tigers	1	Ryde City	0	
GRADE 12:	Schofield Scorpions	3	Ryde City	4	Penalties (1-1 Full Time, 1-1 Extra Time)
MINOR SEMI FINAL:					
GRADE 11:	Illawarra Lions	0	Schofield Scorpions	1	
GRADE 12:	Camden Tigers	1	MSC Liverpool	2	



THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE

Saturday 21st September, 2002

Marconi Stadium

Grand Final

U13	11:00am	Parramatta Eagles	v	Marconi Stallions
U14	12:45pm	Olympic Sharks	v	Marconi Stallions
U15	2:15pm	Olympic Sharks	v	Parramatta Eagles
U17	4:00pm	Blacktown City Demons	v	Wollongong Wolves

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

Sunday 22nd September, 2002

Christie Park

Grand Final

U13	11:00am	Newcastle United	v	Nepean Association
U14	12:45pm	Macarthur Rams	v	Nepean Association
U15	2:15pm	Newcastle United	v	Hills United
U17	4:00pm	Newcastle United	v	Hills United

DIVISION 1 YOUTH LEAGUE

Sunday 22nd September, 2002

Seymour Shaw

Grand Final

U13	10:00am	Schofield Scorpions	v	Ryde City
U14	11:45am	Mt Druitt	v	Mt Pritchard
U15	1:15pm	Illawarra Lions	v	Camden Tigers
U17	3:00pm	Dulwich Hill	v	Schofield Scorpions

PREMIER CADET LEAGUE

Saturday 21st September, 2002

Marconi Stadium

Grand Final

U11	8:30am	Marconi Stallions	v	Blacktown City Demons
U12	9:45am	Blacktown City Demons	v	Northern Spirit

DIVISION 1 CADET LEAGUE

Sunday 22nd September, 2002

Christie Park

Preliminary Final

U11	8:30am	Ryde City	v	Schofield Scorpions
U12	9:45am	Schofield Scorpions	v	MSC Liverpool

This week photos are from the Super Youth League Preliminary Finals from Lambert Park.

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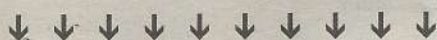
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The Association contact details will then appear.

SYDNEY BRANCH AWARDS NIGHT

The Sydney Branch of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation hosted their Annual dinner on Saturday 27 July 2002.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation by Sydney Branch President, Charles Vale of four MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS.

2002 Sydney Branch Meritorious Service Award recipients

BILL CHARLTON - Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer Football Association

JACK TAYLOR - Blacktown & District Soccer Football Association

JOAN HUDSON - Illawarra Junior Soccer Association

VI NUTT - Granville & Districts Soccer Football Association



Jack Taylor, Secretary of Blacktown & District Soccer Football Association receiving his award from Sydney Branch President, Charles Vale.

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Round 2

Round 2 of the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation's most prestigious event will be held this coming Sunday.

Round 1 was held last weekend at grounds in regional NSW with many teams competing in the knockout tournament for the first time.

Run over 5 rounds, the spectacular finals day will be held at Valentine Sports Park, Glenwood on Sunday 20th October.

Once again the Champion of Champions tournament will be the highlight of the year and will see the best of the best competing for the coveted title.

The Champion of Champions results, draw and ground listing is available on-line at www.nswasf.com.au

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Como West Jannali — 2001 Under 15 Champion of Champions

ITALIAN SERIE A

ITALIAN AFFAIR

By Joe Russo

Well the Serie A finally got under way last weekend after a hectic off season. The gap between the rich and poor clubs in Italy has never been more evident. The television revenue dispute, which delayed the start of the season for two weeks, highlighted this dichotomy in Italian football.

It is unbelievable how individual clubs were left to negotiate their own fee with the pay television operators. The entire league wasn't sold as a package. Each club had to negotiate their own deal in Italian soccer's equivalent of enterprise bargaining.

It was only natural that pay-tv didn't want the likes of Modena, Como, Empoli, Piacenza, Atalanta, Chievo and Reggina. They, with all due respect to their fans, don't attract the subscribers to pay-tv. It is the likes of Juventus, Inter, AC Milan, Roma, Parma and Lazio that were always going to have the advantage.

After this whole fiasco the Italian Federation has decided to sell the Serie A as a package next year. Like the English Premier for Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB in England, it will be an all or nothing approach. Thank goodness common sense has prevailed in the end.

□□□□

Very little happened in the transfer market this off season. Unlike previous years, where the old Liras were splashed around like monopoly money, the world soccer recession has hit Italy.

The new Euro currency may have ushered in a new era in spending. Out of the four major buys by Italian sides, three were internal transfers between Serie A clubs.

Fabio Cannavaro from Parma to Inter, Alessandro Nesta from Lazio to AC Milan and Hernan Crespo from Lazio to Inter. Rivaldo from Barcelona to AC Milan was the only real major purchase from a non Italian team.

The other interesting aspect about these four transfers was that Inter and arch rivals AC Milan were the buyers. Both purchased a quality Italian defender and both purchased a quality South American striker: Cannavaro and Crespo to Inter and Nesta and Rivaldo to Milan.

□□□□

Marco Bresciano, Vince Grella and Zeljko Kalac are the three Australians in the Serie A this season. Hardly any Australians have played in Italy's domestic league and to have three at one time is a real first.

Frank Farina, who back in 1991 was the very first Australian in the Serie A, had a short stint with Bari, John Aloisi a few years ago played a season for Cremonese and Paul Okon had limited opportunities thanks to injuries at both Lazio and Fiorentina.

If we are to count Ante Seric, who played the last two seasons for Verona, there would be another Australian on the list, but Seric has of course chosen to play for Croatia.

Bresciano, who played with Empoli in the Serie B last season, has transferred to Parma where he was offered the sort of money that Empoli generally offer their entire squad. Bresciano's contract is for five years.

Kalac on the other hand has transferred from Roda JC in Holland to Perugia, which is an interesting club to say the least. An unconventional President in Luciano Gaucci and an equally unconventional coach in Serse Cosmi are the people in charge.

Gaucci is the person that made the world laugh at Italy when he decided to sack Korean Ahn Jung-hwan after he scored that goal against Italy in the World Cup.

For Kalac the move to Italy is an enormous step up. Serie A football is far superior to anything that he has ever experienced.

However, for Bresciano the move from the Serie B to the Serie A should be fairly smooth. At Parma he will be indirectly under the guidance of former Italian national team and AC Milan boss Arrigo Sacchi.

Sacchi is officially the Technical Director and Cesare Prandelli is the coach, but most people recognise that Sacchi's job description can be rather blurred.

Parma were disappointing last season narrowly avoiding relegation, but they have tasted success over the last decade, especially in Cup competitions, and will certainly be hungry for more.

Kalac at Perugia replaces Colombian goalkeeper Oscar Cordoba. Perugia just expect to survive from year to year but their President is known for his short fuse and low tolerance of failures.

Grella is the other Australian who is going to make the transition to the higher league along with his club Empoli. He will need to secure a regular starting place in the team as he spent long periods last season warming the benches.

JUVENTUS 3 ATALANTA 0

Juventus kicked off their title defence with a 3-0 drubbing of Atalanta with under pressure striker Alessandro Del Piero scoring twice on Sunday.

It was rumoured that the Italy international may lose his place in the starting line-up due to the arrival of former Parma hot-shot Marco di Vaio.

But coach Marcello Lippi decided to pair the two up front and he reaped immediate rewards as Del Piero scored twice in what turned out to be a relatively comfortable afternoon for the champions.

Del Piero netted twice before Salvatore Fiesi chanced a long-range effort which seemed to surprise Taibi and the ball sailed into the back of the net late in the game.

LAZIO 2 CHIEVO 3

Chievo proved that last season's fifth-placed finish was no flash in the pan with a stirring 3-2 victory over Lazio at the Stadio Olimpico.

The Verona-based outfit trailed to a sixth-minute goal from Argentine international Diego Simeone but hit back to level just eight minutes later courtesy of Lorenzo D'Anna's strike.

They then moved in front when former Germany captain Oliver Bierhoff marked his debut with a goal five minutes after half-time.

Lazio came back again and restored parity through another debutant, Bernardo Corradi, after 63 minutes, but Chievo weren't to be denied as Ivano Della Morte hit the winner with 20 minutes remaining.

UDINESE 1 PARMA 1

Brazilian Adriano marked his Parma debut with a goal at Udinese as the two sides bat-



Christian Vieri celebrates his goal that sealed the three points for Inter against Torino last week.

led to a 1-1 draw in Udine.

However, the home side fought back in the second half and levelled through Adriano's compatriot Alberto, who headed in Martin Jorgensen's right-wing cross early in the second half.

BRESCIA 1 PIACENZA 2

Veteran striker Dario Hubner, last season's Serie A top scorer, hit the goal trail again to give Piacenza an opening-weekend victory, netting



AC Milan's Rui Costa skips through a Modena challenge.

the winner in a 2-1 defeat of Brescia.

INTER 1 TORINO 0

AC Milan's city rivals Internazionale were at the San Siro, determined to put the Ronaldo saga behind them once and for all.

Ronaldo forced his departure to Real Madrid just before the end of the transfer deadline.

More performances like Saturday's and he will be a forgotten man because Inter beat Torino 1-0 through a Christian Vieri first-half header.

Inter have three good reasons not to pine for the Brazilian striker.

Striker Hernan Crespo joined from Lazio, while former Parma central defender Fabio Cannavaro and ex-AC Milan midfielder Francesco Coco also completed transfers to the Rossoneri.

COMO 0 EMPOLI 2

In a battle of Serie A newcomers, Empoli got their season off to a wonderful start thanks to goals from debutant Luca Saudati and Antonio Di Natale in a 2-0 win at Como.

REGGINA 0 PERUGIA 2

Reggina were given an early lesson in the harsh realities of life in Serie A after they put in a hard shift at Perugia but came away with no reward and a 2-0 defeat.

Second-half goals from Fabrizio Miccoli and Giovanni Tedesco saw Perugia start their season with a win and remind Reggina that they will most probably face a long, hard battle against relegation.

MODENA 0 AC MILAN 3

Football had finally been played in Italy on Saturday after a two-week delay

brought on by the controversy over television contracts and it was the Milan giants who stole the headlines.

Featuring new faces in both of their star-studded line-ups, it was the old guys who did most of the damage.

Rivaldo, Jon Dahl Tomasson, Clarence Seedorf and Alessandro Nesta have joined AC Milan to help strengthen a Rossoneri outfit which narrowly qualified for the Champions League.

But it was Filippo Inzaghi, the Italy striker, who provided the spark with a pair of goals in their 3-0 triumph at newly-promoted Modena.

Tomasson, impressive at the World Cup for Denmark, set up one of those goals.

FIXTURES Sep 22, 2002

Atalanta v Bologna
Chievo v Brescia
Empoli v Juventus
Milan v Perugia
Parma v Como
Piacenza v Udinese
Reggina v Inter
Roma v Modena
Torino v Lazio

Bologna 2 Roma 1, Como 2 Empoli 2, Inter 1 Torino 0, Modena 0 Milan 3, Juventus 3 Atalanta 0, Lazio Chievo 3, Perugia Reggina 0, Udinese 1 Parma 1, Brescia 1 Piacenza 2.

1. Milan	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
1. Juventus	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
3. Empoli	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
3. Perugia	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
5. Chievo	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
6. Bologna	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
6. Piacenza	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
8. Inter	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
9. Udinese	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
9. Parma	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
11. Lazio	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
12. Roma	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
12. Brescia	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
14. Torino	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
15. Como	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
15. Reggina	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
17. Modena	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
17. Atalanta	1	0	0	1	0	3	0



ENGLISH



An English Odyssey

By Stuart Jones

Welcome to my first column on all things English football. My aim is to give you news and views from around the leagues that you won't get from the mainstream. As many of you would have seen in the past I am interested in all levels of the English system.

So "minnows" Bolton defeated Manchester United. How times have changed for it was not that long ago that Bolton would not have been referred to as the minnows, rather United would have. Bolton was the Lions of England, a mighty side. Of course this Manchester United-centric world now sees anyone outside of the red side of Manchester as minnows. In the view of many of the media in Australia if United took on Real Madrid or Juventus I am sure those two sides would be referred to as the minnows. Manchester United were lucky to become a force in football when the media ruled the world and now their place on the world football stage is made more dominant by a media wanting to sell papers or gain viewers. United had a great side through the 90's, although the current crop of players is less convincing, and deserved their place on top but their place in history is being overemphasised. Mind you Arsenal manager Herbert Chapman foresaw the power of the media and his team in the 1930s were all over the news of that day, and even appeared in movies!

Carlisle United, in the English third division, has had a rough ride in the last few seasons, most famously avoiding dropping out of the league with a last minute goal from their goal keeper just a few seasons ago. As of the beginning of this season their chairman Michael Knighton, of Old Trafford ball juggling fame, finally sold the club. Now it seems Carlisle stands not only on the edge of the Scottish and English border but the Irish one as well. The new chairman is Irishman John Courtenay, he has placed former boss Roddie Collins in charge, also from across the Irish Sea, and their biggest purchase is Darren Kelly, an Irish under 21 player. They have about six Irish players on their book. The season started well and in the first three games they secured more away wins than the whole of last season. They stood at seventh - three clubs highest position on the table for nearly five years. Since then the club has struggled but you can never write off the luck of the Irish.

I don't know if anyone else is confused when looking at the PL table lately. I keep turning it upside down because I keep seeing Tottenham up the top and thinking I must be looking at the table the wrong way. Mind you when I turn it upside down it puts Arsenal in the relegation zone so that can't be right either. On a serious note it is nice to see the two north London clubs being competitive this year. I expect Spurs to fall away (evidence one - Fulham's three-goal comeback) so you White Hart Lane supporters get out and be vocal about the side while you can. I know it has been a long time but surely you can find voice. Glenn Hoddle is said to believe in reincarnation, perhaps he has turned Spurs into a decent football side!

Manchester City striker Nicholas Anelka has once again caused managers from Keegan to Wenger sing his praises. They claim he is back on the right path. Right path to where I wonder, to his next space? Will he score so many goals that his brother will declare to the papers that all the big clubs of Europe are after him and he will demand a transfer. City have certainly got their hands full because if Anelka is too successful he may look further afield. Although Kevin Keegan has one trick up his sleeve. One of his assistant coaches is none other than Stuart Pearce. If Anelka does start wandering in his thoughts perhaps Psycho should be sent to visit him at home late one night and remind him of what his responsibilities are.

Leicester City is having all sorts of problems getting rid of Dennis Wise. After some recent indiscretions the club sacked Wise. However the FA appeal went the way of Wise and the club was ordered to reinstate him. However the club has appealed that decision and should it not go their way they have threatened to take it all the way to the high court. And so they should. It seems these days players want to cut their cake and eat it too. We hear the PFA declare we want players to be treated like any other employees. They gained freedom of contract so they could move jobs (in their case clubs). Yet on the other hand you hear players representatives say they should not have their contracts terminated. Well in the real world people's contracts are terminated every day. Clubs should have the right to dismiss players like any other employer if there have been indiscretions bringing disgrace to their employers. If a player wants to prove them wrong they can find a new club and play well. It could be worse for players anyway, how scared would they be if they got sacked for having a bad run of performances, as you can be in the real world for not doing a good job.

Birmingham City chairman David Gold certainly made an impact on his team recently - crash landing his plane on the club's training ground at West Hill. The plane's breaks had failed and he careered into a grass bank. The good news is he was released from hospital after tests showed nothing wrong.

Millwall boss Mark McGhee finally believes his side is getting the right spirit back. After being thumped 6-0 on the first day of the season by Rotherham, the side that made the playoffs last season have really struggled and remain in the early relegation mix. McGhee though has been trying to speak up the efforts of his side since then. However one bump on that positive road is the clubs 0-0 draw with Rushden which saw them tumble out of the Worthington Cup after they lost the penalty shoot out.

The League has opened an investigation into the violence that marred the Watford Luton Worthington cup match. Watford has had a long history of hooligans running with their side and Luton is one of their most hated rivals.

The Brimston brothers have written stacks of books over the years on Hooliganism and have expressed how they felt when they did run with the Watford boys. All have warned that the epidemic had not fully departed the football scene, instead it has just moved away from football grounds. It seems that in this case the violence returned to the park. The game itself was delayed by 15 minutes and the bad news for the home fans was Luton came out 2-1 on top.

Until next week.

Leeds inflicted a 1-0 defeat on Manchester United to spoil Rio Ferdinand's return to his former club.

Sir Alex Ferguson's side dominated much of the game but were made to regret some poor finishing.

Record £29.3m buy Ferdinand could do nothing to prevent Harry Kewell from heading Leeds' winner midway through the second half. Arsenal remain top of the table after beating Charlton 3-0 at The Valley.

Thierry Henry rifled Arsenal ahead on half time with a stunning finish after being set up by Dennis Bergkamp. Sylvain Wiltord and Edu added further goals for the Gunners, who have now scored in 45 successive games - just one short of the all-time record set by Chesterfield in 1931.

Liverpool dramatically won 3-2 at Bolton Wanderers.

Milan Baros, who earlier hit a post, broke the deadlock for Liverpool just before the interval.

The Reds, with Michael Owen only on the bench, were pegged back when Ricardo Gardner equalised after the restart.

Baros restored Liverpool's lead but Ivan Campo looked to have rescued a point for Bolton until Emile Heskey netted two minutes from time. Chelsea eased past struggling Newcastle United 3-0 at Stamford Bridge.

Eidur Gudjohnsen gave Chelsea the lead from Boudewijn Zenden's cross and Gianfranco Zola soon made it 2-0.

Zola and Gudjohnsen combined again with the latter adding his second after poor Magpies defending. Everton beat Middlesbrough 2-1 at Goodison Park.

Szilard Nemeth put Boro ahead early on after being set up by Geremi but Kevin Campbell pulled Everton level.

And it was Campbell who headed the winner just 13 minutes from time.

Fulham pulled off an impressive 3-0 victory at third-bottom Sunderland.

Junichi Inamoto put Fulham ahead with his sixth goal of the campaign and Barry Hayles doubled their lead after the break.

And the Cottagers rounded off a

fine display when Steve Marlet netted the third. West Brom edged to a 1-0 success over Southampton at the Hawthorns.

Sean Gregan won it when his 35-yard shot beat hapless Saints keeper Paul Jones.

To make matters worse for the Saints, defender Paul Williams was sent off. Tottenham Hotspur are back up to second in the English Premiership thanks to Anthony Gardner's late deflected goal in a 3-2 home victory against West Ham United.

Defender Gardner's 89th-minute shot from outside the box was diverted by West Ham's Gary Breen past his goalkeeper David James. Previously West Ham had equalised twice in a thrilling last half-hour. Simon Davies's 62nd minute opener was cancelled out by Frederic Kanoute.

Teddy Sheringham then restored the lead on 71 minutes from the penalty spot after a foul on Spurs debutant Robbie Keane by West Ham's Ian Pearce, who was sent off. But the ten men briefly levelled through Trevor Sinclair on 77 minutes, until Gardner's final word.

Sunday's other game also had a dramatic end, as Manchester City substitute Shaun Goater scored a last-minute equaliser to secure a 2-2 draw against Blackburn Rovers. David Thompson and Andy Cole had put Blackburn two goals to the good, and when City's Danny Tiatto was sent off, it looked bad for the Manchester side.

FIXTURES

SAT SEP 21 2002

Newcastle United v Sunderland
Arsenal v Bolton Wanderers
Liverpool v West Bromwich Albion
Man Utd v Tottenham Hotspur
Middlesbrough v Birmingham City
Southampton v Charlton Athletic
West Ham Utd v Man City

SUN SEP 22 2002

Aston Villa v Everton
Blackburn Rovers v Leeds United

MON SEP 23 2002

Fulham v Chelsea



Harry Kewell of Leeds United scores the winner during the FA Barclaycard Premiership game between Leeds United and Manchester United at Elland Road.

PREMIER LEAGUE

TABLES

West Bromwich 1 Southampton 0, Bolton 2 Liverpool 3, Charlton 0 Arsenal, Chelsea 3 Newcastle 0, Everton 2 Middlesbrough 1, Leeds 1 Manchester U 0, Sunderland 0 Fulham 3, Manchester C 2 Blackburn 2, Tottenham 3 West Ham 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Arsenal	6	4	2	0	15	6	14
2. Tottenham	6	4	1	1	11	8	13
3. Leeds	6	4	0	2	10	4	12
4. Chelsea	6	3	3	0	13	8	12
4. Liverpool	6	3	3	0	13	8	12
6. Fulham	5	3	1	1	12	6	10
7. West Bromwich	6	3	0	3	6	9	9
8. Middlesbrough	6	2	2	2	7	5	8
9. Manchester U	6	2	2	2	5	5	8
10. Everton	6	2	2	2	7	8	8
11. Manchester C	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
12. Aston Villa	5	2	0	3	3	3	6
13. Blackburn	6	1	3	2	7	8	6
14. Bolton	5	2	0	3	6	9	6
15. Charlton	6	2	0	4	6	10	6
16. Birmingham	5	1	2	2	5	7	5
17. Southampton	6	1	2	3	3	7	5
18. Sunderland	6	1	2	3	2	8	5
19. Newcastle	5	1	1	3	6	8	4
20. West Ham	5	0	1	4	4	12	1

FIRST DIVISION

Brighton 2 Gillingham 4, Burnley 2 Stoke 1, Coventry 3 Grimsby 2, Crystal P 4 Wolverhampton 2, Leicester 3 Derby 1, Nottingham 0 Watford 1, Reading 0 Wimbledon 1, Portsmouth 1 Millwall 0, Sheffield U 1 Rotherham 0, Walsall 0 Bradford 1, Ipswich - Norwich 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Portsmouth	8	7	1	0	18	6	22
2. Leicester	8	6	1	1	14	10	19
3. Norwich	8	4	3	1	16	6	15
4. Sheffield U	8	4	2	2	11	9	14
5. Coventry	7	4	1	2	10	10	13
6. Gillingham	8	4	1	3	9	9	13
7. Watford	8	4	1	3	11	13	13
8. Rotherham	8	3	3	2	13	8	12
9. Bradford	7	3	3	1	9	6	12
10. Wolverhampton	7	3	2	2	16	11	11
11. Nottingham	7	3	1	3	10	7	10
12. Reading	8	3	1	4	9	9	10
13. Wimbledon	8	3	1	4	9	11	10
14. Ipswich	6	2	3	1	11	5	9
15. Crystal P	7	2	3	2	9	8	9
16. Derby	8	3	0	5	11	13	9
17. Preston	7	1	5	1	10	10	8
18. Millwall	8	2	2	4	5	12	8
19. Walsall	8	2	1	5	6	12	7
20. Burnley	7	2	1	4	5	12	7
21. Sheffield W	7	1	3	3	8	12	6
22. Stoke	7	1	2	4	7	11	5
23. Brighton	8	1	1	6	7	15	4
24. Grimsby	7	0	2	5	3	12	2

SECOND DIVISION

Barnsley 1 Plymouth 1, Cardiff 2 Stockport 1, Cheltenham 2 Bristol C 3, Chesterfield 0 Wigan 0, Luton 2 Notts County 2, Northampton 0 Huddersfield 0, Oldham 6 Mansfield 1, Peterborough 0 Crewe 0, Port Vale 1 Colchester 0, Queens PR 2 Swindon 0, Tranmere 3 Brentford 1, Wycombe 1 Blackpool 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Wigan	8	5	1	2	12	4	16
2. Bristol C	8	5	0	3	13	7	15
3. Blackpool	8	4	3	1	11	5	15
4. Brentford	8	4	3	1	10	6	15
5. Oldham	8	4	2	2	13	6	14
6. Queens PR	8	4	2	2	15	9	14
7. Plymouth	7	4	2	1	14	10	14
8. Cardiff	7	4	2	1	10	6	14
9. Crewe	8	3	4	1	10	5	13
10. Tranmere	8	4	1	3	11	11	13
11. Port Vale	8	4	0	4	8	11	12
12. Stockport	7	3	2	2	6	4	11
13. Chesterfield	8	3	2	3	11	11	11
14. Colchester	8	3	2	3	5	6	11
15. Wycombe	8	2	3	3	12	14	9
16. Barnsley	8	2	3	3	7	9	9
17. Huddersfield	8	2	3	3	5	7	9
18. Northampton	8	2	3	3	5	11	9
19. Notts County	8	1	5	2	9	10	8
20. Swindon	8	2	1	5	9	12	7
21. Luton	8	1	3	4	12	15	6
22. Peterborough	7	1	1	5	3	8	4
23. Mansfield	8	1	1	6	10	28	4
24. Cheltenham	8	0	3	5	6	12	3

WORLD

Spanish Primera Liga

Betis' clash with Real Madrid was called-off after 47 minutes due to a floodlight failure.

The match kicked off 15 minutes late due to a blackout and the lights continued to flicker after seven minutes. Betis took the lead after 37 minutes through Capi but the two sides will have to come back to either complete or replay the match at a later date. Valencia made it two wins from two games with a 3-0 victory over Recreativo Huelva. Vicente gave the Chies the lead after eight minutes, and a late John Carew double ensured the three points. Deportivo looked to be on the end of another defeat when Manuel Vidrio put Osasuna 1-0 up after 11 minutes.

Barcelona recorded their first Liga win of the season with a comfortable 2-0 victory at the San Mames against Athletic Bilbao. Luis Enrique and Javier Saviola were the men on target with first-half efforts.

In the day's other match Malaga beat Rayo Vallecano 2-1. Elvir Bolic put the visitors ahead, but two goals in five second-half minutes from Dely Valdes and Kiki Musampa gave the islanders the win.

A moment of exuberance tarnished Celta Vigo midfielder Jesuli's (pictured) moment of glory after scoring his side's third goal in the 3-1 win against Real Mallorca on Sunday.



The 24-year-old capped a fine display by the home team with his second goal in the 83rd minute. But the smile was soon wiped off his face when he emerged back on to the pitch to be greeted by his second yellow card of the day and a red one to go with it.

The first goal arrived after 27 minutes when Alexandr Mostovoi's left-wing free-kick was floated into the area and Catanha rose unmarked, seeming to hang in the air before heading the ball low into the corner of the net.

Celta stretched their lead in the 40th minute. Mostovoi raced down the left wing and cut the ball back inside for Jesuli who was just inside the left corner of the area.

Jesuli looked up and, spotting Franco just off his line, curled a stunning right-footed shot into the top right corner of the net for a marvellous strike.

Mallorca did get themselves, albeit briefly, back into the game in the 78th minute.

Ariel Ibagaza's free-kick from wide on the right found Fernando Nino unmarked on the edge of the six-yard box and he was able to head the ball past a stationary Pablo Cavallero.

Celta took all of five minutes to re-assert their superiority when Jesuli netted his second of the game before earning a little slice of notoriety. Teen ace Fernando Torres scored his first goal for Atletico Madrid but was then sent off for diving as Sevilla took a point from a 1-1 draw in the capital.

Garcia Moises put Sevilla ahead with a penalty seconds before the half-time whistle. But Atletico fought back and Torres levelled up with a fine header in the 57th minute.

He turned from hero to villain when he was shown red in the 88th minute for a second dive inside five minutes, but Sevilla could not turn their brief numerical superiority into goals and settled for a draw.

Real Sociedad's best start to a season since 1996 was assured by a 2-1 victory at Espanyol. Darko Kovacevic and Miken Aranburu put Sociedad two goals in front.

They had enjoyed a man advantage after Espanyol's Antonio Soldevilla received his marching orders in the 35th minute.

Spain international Raul Tamudo



Javier Saviola of Barcelona celebrates his first goal during the Athletic Bilbao v Barcelona Primera Liga match.

pinched a goal back for the hosts - who lost at Real Madrid in their opening match of the season - but an equaliser proved beyond them.

A superb Rodolfo Bodipo goal ensured Racing Santander edged out Alaves 1-0 in a tight game at the Mendizorrotza.

It was not quite revenge for the 5-0 drubbing handed out by Alaves the last time these two sides met, but it was a satisfying away day for Racing following their season-opening defeat to Valladolid.

Villarreal saw no immediate ben-

efit to their change of management as they went down 1-0 to Real Valladolid.

Gonzalo Colsa's 28th-minute strike was the difference between two poor teams who could be facing a battle against relegation if they continue to play like this.

FIXTURES SEPTEMBER 22, 2002

Barcelona v Espanyol	Sevilla v Athletic
Deportivo v Valladolid	Villarreal v Alaves
Mallorca v At.Madrid	Malaga v Valencia
R.Vallecano v Racing	Rec de Huelva v Celta
R.Sociedad v Betis	R.Madrid v Osasuna

Osasuna 1 Deportivo 2, Malaga 2 R.Vallecano 1, Valencia 3 Rec de Huelva 0, Athletic 0 Barcelona 2, Espanyol 1 R.Sociedad 3, Celta 3 Mallorca 1, Alaves 0 Racing 1, At.Madrid 1 Sevilla 1, Valladolid 1 Villarreal 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Valencia	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
2. R.Sociedad	2	2	0	0	7	3	6
3. Celta	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
4. Malaga	2	2	0	0	5	3	6
5. Valladolid	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
6. Barcelona	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
7. Betis	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
8. R.Madrid	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
9. Racing	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
10. Deportivo	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
11. At.Madrid	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
12. R.Vallecano	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
12. Osasuna	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
14. Alaves	2	0	1	1	2	2	1
14. Villarreal	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
16. Sevilla	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
17. Athletic	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
17. Rec de Huelva	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
19. Mallorca	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
19. Espanyol	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

German Bundesliga

Hansa Rostock leapfrogged Bochum and climbed to second in the Bundesliga as they bounced back from defeat at Bayer Leverkusen with a 1-0 success on Sunday.

Having lost 3-1 at home to last season's Champions League finalists in midweek, Hansa's early challenge might have been expected to fade rapidly.

But they showed great resolve to fight for victory.

The only goal of the game arrived 32 minutes in when the visitors took advantage of a mistake by the opposition.

Bochum's Filip Tapalovic was dispossessed in his own penalty area by Kevin Hansen who supplied Rydwicz.

He could not score, but Baschirou Salou was on hand to bundle the ball over the line through a pack of players for a priceless goal. The day's other match saw Hamburg climb up the table as the torment for Kaiserslautern continued with a 2-0 defeat.

They are a club in a crisis which began last autumn and resulted in Matthias Sammer's axing at the end of last month. This match, Eric Gerets' second in charge of 'Lautern, saw Hamburg end their run of three straight defeats thanks to two goals from striker Bernardo Romeo.

The visitors kept the scoreline goalless until the 66th minute, but they were cut open by Raphael Wicky who dispossessed Dimitrios Grammozis in midfield and threaded a pass through for Romeo who rounded Koch and tucked the ball away.

Any hopes Gerets had of a point vanished when Cristian Ledesma capitalised on a stray pass from Ciriaco Sforza to set up Romeo for a coolly-taken second goal in the 77th minute.

On Saturday Michael Ballack netted twice as Bayern Munich went clear at the top of the league after a 2-1 win at Nurnberg.

The Germany international, thriving

in his new environment following his summer switch from Bayer Leverkusen, opened the scoring in the 12th minute.

A free-kick from Ze Roberto, a team-mate of Ballack's last season at Leverkusen, from the right hand touchline swung to the far post where the midfielder rose above the defenders to head in from close range.

Nurnberg are a gritty bunch, and they were back on level terms nine minutes before half-time.

Oliver Kahn brought down David Jarolim in the box and Sasa Ciric converted the penalty kick, driving the ball with his left foot into the right hand corner past the Germany goalkeeper.

There was only going to be one star today, however, and that was Ballack. He netted his second seven minutes into the second half.

After an excellent one-two with Giovane Elber the Brazilian put Ballack in the clear and his early left foot shot from 10 yards beat Dariusz Kampa.

It would seem that Bayer Leverkusen are missing Ballack as their early season struggles continued with a demoralising 3-1 home defeat to bottom-of-the-table Hannover 96.

Inspired by new signing, and former Germany international, Fredi Bobic, Hannover showed courage aplenty to come from behind to claim maximum points and their first win of the season.

Turkish international Yildirim Basturk gave the hosts the lead before Bobic found his range.

He notched his first for the club four minutes before half-time with a close range header following a fine cross from Nebojsa Krunic.

Bayer, whose defence had looked shaky throughout, went behind 10 minutes from full time as Bobic again got on

the scoresheet.

There was an element of fortune about it, though, as Mohammadou Idrissou's shot appeared to be going wide until Bobic stuck out a leg to deflect the ball past the hapless Hans Jorg Butt in the Leverkusen goal.

The hosts, who begin their Champions League campaign away to Olympiakos in midweek, were caught out again two minutes later. Idrissou heaped further misery on Toppmoller and the home support with a neat lob over the on-rushing Butt.

The game of the day, which pitted last season's champions Borussia Dortmund against Schalke ended in a 1-1 stalemate. All of the significant action was condensed into 60 seconds with Victor Agali putting Schalke ahead in the 69th minute only for Henrique Ewerthon to level the scores virtually straight from kick-off.

Stuttgart fought back from a goal down to take a share of the points from 10-man Borussia Monchengladbach.

The home side took the lead through Markus Munch in the 50th minute but Max Eberl's red card three minutes later put them on the back foot for the rest of the match. And Stuttgart took advantage in the 71st minute when Kevin Kuranyi levelled the scores.

Marcelinho's 52nd-minute goal gave Hertha Berlin the points at Arminia Bielefeld and coach Huub Stevens a much needed fillip.

Marcelinho's goal came courtesy of a mistake from home defender Torjus Hansen.

The Norwegian lost possession on the edge of the area with the ball finding its way to Marcelinho, who made no mistake with a composed finish.

Wolfsburg stormed back to earn a point at 1860 Munich thanks to two goals in the last 13 minutes.

The hosts, looking to bounce back

from Tuesday night's 3-1 defeat to city rivals Bayern Munich, cruised into a two-goal lead with Michael Wiesinger and Markus Schroth on the scoresheet before taking the foot off the accelerator.

With Stefan Effenberg, making his first appearance at the Olympic Stadium following his summer departure from

Bayern pulling the strings in midfield the visitors always retained a foothold in the game.

And they gave themselves a chance of snatching a point when Brazilian Robson Ponte, on as a substitute, fired through the legs of home keeper Simon Jentsch after a fine run and cross from the influential Diego Klimovitz.

With nerves jangling in the 1860 defence an equaliser seemed inevitable and so it proved when Klimovitz got the goal his performance deserved.

Inevitably Effenberg also played a part with a dangerous corner which Klimovitz headed home from close range.

A goalkeeping gaffe by Energie Cottbus's Tomislav Piplica handed Werder Bremen maximum points on their travels to the former East Germany.

FIXTURES SEPTEMBER 22, 2002

Hertha v HamburgerSV	Hansa Rostock v Dortmund
Wolfsburg v Nurnberg	Schalke v M.Gladbach
B.München v Cottbus	Stuttgart v Bielefeld
Werder Bremen v Leverkusen	Kaiserslautern v 1860 München
Hannover v Bochum	

Cottbus 0 Werder Bremen 1, Nurnberg 1 B.München 2, 1860 München 2 Wolfsburg 2, Bielefeld 0 Hertha 1, M.Gladbach 1 Stuttgart 1, Leverkusen 1 Hannover 3, Dortmund 1 Schalke 1, Hamburger SV 2 Kaiserslautern 0, Bochum 0 Hansa Rostock 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. B.München	5	4	1	0	14	4	13
2. Hansa Rostock	5	4	0	1	10	3	12
3. Bochum	5	3	1	1	12	4	10
4. Schalke	5	2	3	0	6	3	9
5. Werder Bremen	5	3	0	2	7	8	9
6. M.Gladbach	5	2	2	1	6	3	8
7. Dortmund	5	1	4	0	7	5	7
8. 1860 München	5	2	1	2	9	8	7
9. Wolfsburg	5	2	1	2	5	5	7
10. Bielefeld	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
11. Hertha	5	1	3	1	5	5	6
12. Hamburger SV	5	2	0	3	6	8	6
13. Leverkusen	5	1	2	2	8	10	5
14. Stuttgart	5	0	4	1	5	7	4
15. Cottbus	5	1	1	3	4	12	4
16. Hannover	5	1	0	4	7	12	3
17. Nurnberg	5	1	0	4	6	12	3
18. Kaiserslautern	5	0	2	3	3	10	2



Bizente Lizarazu (left) helps Hasan Salihamidzic (right) celebrate his equaliser for FC Bayern München.



DUTCH EREDIVISIE



Tom Soetars and Christiano hit two goals each as Roda JC built on their defeat of Willem II to beat NEC Nijmegen 4-2 and hoist themselves to fifth in the table on Sunday.

The hosts took a 20th-minute lead when Dennis de Nooijer converted Frank Demouge's immaculate cross with a spectacular bicycle kick leaving Roda goalkeeper Vladan Kujovic with no chance.

Soetars pulled the visitors level with their first chance of the game when he seized on a pass from substitute Edrissa Sonko, who had come on for Alain van Mieghem.

On the stroke of half-time Ethiopian midfielder Youssef Hersi's 10-yard shot gave NEC a deserved lead at the break.

Roda's counter-attacking play saw them on level terms in the 56th minute with the first meaningful play of the second half when

Brazilian Christiano beat NEC goalkeeper Dennis Gentenaar in a one-on-one.

Five minutes later the same player scored an almost identical, albeit contentious, goal to put his team ahead.

And the hosts' frustration was compounded in the 88th minute when Soetars got his second goal following a pass by Fatih Sonkaya to ruin NEC coach Johan Neeskens' 51st birthday as he saw his side slip into the lower half of the table.

In the day's other game, Martijn Meerdink returned to his former club and scored the equalising goal as AZ Alkmaar came from behind to record their first victory of the season in a 2-1 success at De Graafschap. Jason Culina gave the hosts a 28th-minute lead in a vital game between two teams struggling in the lower reaches of the table.

But AZ were back on level terms

after 41 minutes when Meerdink capitalised on confusion in his former team-mates' defence and headed in a cross from Danish striker Kenneth Perez.

Four minutes later AZ defender Peter Wijker hit a long pass and Barry van Galen, with just the goalkeeper Jurgen Wevers to beat, coolly slotted in from 10 yards.

The big three sides in Holland have all recorded comfortable victories, setting themselves up well for next week's Champions League action.

PSV recorded their fourth win of the season without conceding a single goal against RKC Waalwijk, who had previously had a 100% record. RKC were well and truly reminded that their lofty position was false as PSV ran out 4-0 winners with a hat-trick from Yugoslav striker Mateja Kezman. Arnold Bruggink scored the other goal for

Guus Hiddink's side.

Feyenoord following up their 4-1 win on Tuesday with a 5-1 win away to FC Twente tonight. Shinji Ono and Thomas Buffel scored twice, while Pierre Van Hooijdonk also got his name on the scoresheet.

Ajax registered a modest 2-0 victory against Zwolle in the Amsterdam Arena after second half goals from Richard Witshege and Christian Chivu (penalty).

Groningen remain without a point this season after a 4-2 defeat at Excelsior Rotterdam, who win their first game in the Eredivisie for 15 years following their promotion last year.

NAC Breda won 2-0 at the struggling Heerenveen and Willem II won 2-0 at home to Utrecht in tonight's other two matches.

On Friday night Vitesse Arnhem won 3-0 at home to RBC Roosendaal.

Vitesse 3 RBC Roosendaal 0, Excelsior 4 Groningen 2, Willem II 2 Utrecht 0, Heerenveen 0 NAC Breda 2, PSV 4 RKC Waalwijk 0, Ajax 2 Zwolle 0, Twente 1 Feyenoord 5, De Graafschap 1 AZ Alkmaar 2, NEC 2 Roda JC 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. PSV	4	4	0	0	11	0	12
2. Ajax	4	4	0	0	10	3	12
3. Feyenoord	4	3	1	0	13	4	10
4. RKC Waalwijk	4	3	0	1	9	9	9
5. Roda JC	4	2	2	0	9	6	8
6. Willem II	4	2	1	1	5	2	7
7. Vitesse	4	2	0	2	6	4	6
8. NAC Breda	4	1	3	0	5	3	6
9. Zwolle	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
10. Utrecht	4	1	1	2	6	6	4
11. RBC Roosendaal	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
11. NEC	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
13. Excelsior	4	1	1	2	6	9	4
14. AZ Alkmaar	4	1	1	2	5	10	4
15. De Graafschap	4	1	0	3	5	10	3
16. Heerenveen	4	0	1	3	4	10	1
17. Twente	4	0	1	3	4	11	1
18. Groningen	4	0	0	4	4	10	0



BELGIAN JUPITER LEAGUE



Defending champions Genk warmed up for their Champions League clash against AEK Athens with a 4-1 victory at home to Lommel.

Moumouni Dagano opened the scoring in the first minute before Dieter Dekelver converted Dimitri De Conde's corner to level 10 minutes later.

Wesley Sonck curled his shot past the keeper eight minutes later to restore Genk's lead before Josip Skoko (61) and Sonck completed the scoring.

Belgian international striker Mbo Mpenza and Claude Bakadal both claimed hat-tricks as second-placed Excelsior Mouscron crushed Charleroi 6-0.

Mpenza scored the goal of the game when he crashed his third

goal high into the net from long range in the 64th minute.

Nasredine Kraouche found the winner from the spot in the 83rd minute as hosts Gent beat Mons 2-1.

Eric Jol blasted a penalty home on 15 to give the visitors the lead before Alexandros Kaklamanis headed Jacky Peeters' cross home to equalise on 58.

Dalibor Mitrovic claimed a brace in the last three minutes as St Truidense picked up a 3-0 win at Westerlo.

Danny Boffin made no mistake from the spot after being fouled on 27 to open his side's account.

Goals from Stein Huysegems and Jonas De Roeck secured Lierse's 2-0 win at KV Mechelen, while Lokeren ace Runar Kristinsson hit a stunning 66th-

minute free-kick in the 1-0 win at Beveren.

Patrick Goots scored twice as Antwerp came from behind to upset Anderlecht 2-1 at the Bosuil stadium and inflict the Brussels club's first defeat of the season.

Anderlecht went into the match needing a win to close the five-point gap on leaders Club Brugge, and things started well enough for the visitors when Michal Zewlakow put them ahead after 20 minutes.

Glen De Boeck and Walter Baseggio both saw headers cleared off the line early on before Zewlakow's free-kick deflected in off the wall to open the scoring.

But the home side hit back in the second half, Goots levelling the match in the 48th minute with a powerful free-kick which flew

in off the inside of the post.

Anderlecht enjoyed more of the possession in the second period but they were caught on the counter-attack with just six minutes left.

Goots took on a pass from Benny Nielsen before scoring with a deflected shot to win the game for Antwerp.

In the day's other match, LA Louviere needed an 87th-minute equaliser from Michael Klukowski to salvage a 1-1 draw against Germinal Beerschot.

Paul Kpaka put the visitors ahead in the 67th minute with his fifth goal of the season when he converted a Kristof Snelders right-wing cross, but Klukowski fired home a low shot to level the game.

Standard 1 Club Brugge 2, AA Gent 2 Mons 1, Exc.Mouscron 6 S.Charleroi 0, Beveren 0 Lokeren 1, Westerlo 0 Sint-Truiden 2, KV Mechelen 0 Lierse 2, Genk 4 Lommel 1, LaLouviere 1 GBA 1, Antwerp 2 Anderlecht 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Club Brugge	5	5	0	0	13	2	15
2. Exc.Mouscron	5	3	1	1	15	7	10
3. Genk	5	3	1	1	18	11	10
4. Sint-Truiden	5	3	1	1	12	5	10
5. Anderlecht	5	3	1	1	11	5	10
6. Lierse	5	3	1	1	7	3	10
7. Lokeren	5	3	1	1	8	6	10
8. Antwerp	5	2	2	1	8	7	8
9. AA Gent	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
10. GBA	5	2	1	2	10	11	7
11. Mons	5	2	1	2	4	6	7
12. Lommel	5	1	1	3	4	9	4
13. KV Mechelen	5	1	1	3	2	10	4
14. LaLouviere	5	0	3	2	5	7	3
15. Westerlo	5	1	0	4	2	8	3
16. Beveren	5	1	0	4	4	12	3
17. S.Charleroi	5	0	2	3	5	13	2
18. Standard	5	0	1	4	4	11	1



GREEK ETHNIKI KATIGORIA



Ilija Ivic's first-half goal secured AEK a 1-0 win over Athens rivals Panathinaikos at the weekend.

Ivic fired home after an inch-perfect assist from Demis Nikolaidis on 40 minutes to cap a dominant first-half performance and send the Nikos Goumas faithful wild.

Panathinaikos coach Fernando Santos, whose side are without a point in three matches, introduced Emmanuel Olisadebe, Goran Vlaovic and Krzysztof Warzycha in the second half to boost the attack, but it was to no avail.

Olympiakos Piraeus were held to a 2-2 draw in Thessaloniki by second-placed Iraklis, who went ahead early after a thunderous long-range



Olympiakos' Brazilian star Giovanni scored his side's second goal in their two-all draw against Iraklis.

shot from Marcin Mieczel. The defending champions levelled through Stylianos Giannakopoulos and looked certain to take all three points after Giovanni headed them into the lead with eight minutes to go, but Ederson Fofonka sneaked in at the death to level.

Newly promoted Kallithea again showed their metal with a 3-2 away defeat of FC PAOK Thessaloniki, going ahead through Theofanis Gekas before Georgios Georgiadis equalised from the spot.

Giannis Tatsis made it 2-1 and Gekas was again on target for the third, although Giorgios Georgiadis pulled one back in the final stages to take his tally to three goals in five matches.

Proodeytiki, also promoted at

the end of last season, continue to impress, holding Xanthi FC to a 1-1 draw while Egaleo FC crowned a return to their renovated Stavros Mavrothalassitis home ground with a comfortable 3-0 defeat of Aris Thessaloniki FC, with Kostas Papoutsis, Jean-Denis Ouanga and Nikos Nikolopoulos on the scoresheet.

Ionikos took three valuable points from their 3-2 away win over PAS Giannina FC, while OFI Crete FC collected their first point thanks to a 1-1 draw with Akrotiris FC.

Two goals from Slovakian midfielder Attila Pinte, meanwhile, were enough for Panionios FC to beat Panahaiki FC 2-0.

AEK 1 Panathinaikos 0, Iraklis 2 Olympiakos 2, PAOK 2 Kallithea 3, Akrotiris 1 OFI 1, Aigaleo 3 Aris 0, Giannina 2 Ionikos 3, Proodeytiki 1 Xanthi 1, Panionios 2 Panahaiki 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Iraklis	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
2. AEK	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
3. Olympiakos	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
4. Proodeytiki	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
5. Panionios	3	2	0	1	4	1	6
6. Aris	3	2	0	1	2	3	6
7. Aigaleo	3	1	2	0	4	1	5
8. Xanthi	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
9. PAOK	3	1	1	1	7	5	4
10. Akrotiris	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
11. Ionikos	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
12. Kallithea	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
13. OFI	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
14. Giannina	3	0	0	3	3	7	0
15. Panathinaikos	3	0	0	3	1	6	0
16. Panahaiki	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

WORLD TABLES

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Second half goals from Maurice Ross and Barry Ferguson earned Rangers a 2-0 win against 10-man Livingston and made sure they remained at the top of the table.

Rangers had arrived there in midweek for the first time in more than two years and had to survive a first half onslaught from Livi, whose battling performance belied their lowly position.

But, once Cherif Toure-Maman had been ejected just before the hour mark for his second bookable offence, the tide turned the way of Alex McLeish's side.

Ross marked his first club start of the season with his first ever senior goal and a Ferguson penalty late meant there was no way back for the home side.

John Hartson gave Celtic manager Martin O'Neill a huge European selection dilemma after firing his side to a 1-0 win against basement club Hibernian at Parkhead.

The Welsh international followed up his strike in the defeat at Motherwell midweek with his third goal in his first start of the season after being favoured ahead of Chris Sutton.

But just days before their UEFA Cup tie with FK Suduva, the biggest concern for O'Neill is Henrik Larsson's loss of confidence, which was once again apparent in the Glasgow sunshine.

After missing chances at Fir Park, he again looked a shade of his prolific self as his partner stole the show.

Dunfermline striker Stevie Crawford gave his Scotland international hopes a further boost with the winning goal in a 2-1 victory at Dundee United. The former Raith Rovers forward, who has now scored in three successive games for the Fife side, added to Gary Dempsey's ninth-minute opener to give the Pars a two-goal cushion after just 16 minutes at Tannadice.

But United hit back in the second period and Derek Lilley's strike five minutes after the break ensured a nail-biting final 40 minutes for the visitors.

Gavin Rae scored his second goal in four days to give Dundee an entertaining 1-1 draw at Partick.

The Scotland international had notched the winner against Livingston in midweek and once again popped up to foil the hard-working Jags five minutes after the break.

Partick midfielder Jamie Mitchell had deservedly fired the home side ahead five minutes before the interval.

Aberdeen looked set for their first win at Rugby Park for the first time in seven years, but were thwarted by a last-minute headed goal from Kilmarnock's Barry McLaughlin as the game ended 2-2.

Kris Boyd gave Killie the lead but Laurent D'Jaffo equalised for Aberdeen midway through the second-half.

Substitute Darren Young, then put the visitors ahead with a terrific volley in 81 minutes, after a Steve Fulton clearance landed at his feet and Aberdeen looked set for only their second win of the season.

A minute from the end, though, McLaughlin scored his first goal for Kilmarnock to earn Killie a deserved share of the points and stretch their unbeaten run to four games. A hungry Hearts side produced a scintillating comeback from being 2-0 down inside the first half-hour to beat an entertaining Motherwell side at Tynecastle.

Trailing 2-0 after just 28 minutes following goals from Motherwell's Dirk Lehmann and James McFadden they looked set for a likely defeat.

However, a 35-minute bullet header from Dutchman Mark de Vries gave the Gorgie men a lifeline.

A double from Andy Kirk and a fine Stephen Boyack goal in the second half completed the turnaround.

Celtic 1 Hibernian 0, Dundee U 1 Dunfermline 2, Kilmarnock 2 Aberdeen 2, Livingston 0 Rangers 2, Partick Thistle 1 Dundee FC 1, Hearts 4 Motherwell 2.

1. Rangers 7 6 1 0 20 3 19
2. Celtic 7 6 0 1 16 3 18
3. Hearts 7 3 3 1 14 8 12
4. Kilmarnock 7 3 3 1 8 8 12
5. Dunfermline 7 4 0 3 13 15 12
6. Dundee FC 7 2 3 2 8 11 9
7. Motherwell 7 2 2 3 11 12 8
8. Partick Thistle 7 1 4 2 5 6 7
9. Dundee U 7 1 3 3 5 11 6
10. Aberdeen 7 1 2 4 6 13 5
11. Livingston 7 1 1 5 7 13 4
12. Hibernian 7 1 0 6 8 18 3



Barry Ferguson notched up Rangers second goal in their two-nil win over Livingston.

FRENCH LIGUE 1

Nice's dream start to the season was done no harm as they claimed a point in a scoreless draw at Guingamp. Relegated from the top flight in the summer because of their debts but later reinstated by the financial directorate of French football upon appeal, Nice are making the most of their opportunity.

Saturday's point means they are still on top of the league on 14 points, ahead of Auxerre on goal difference.

Auxerre had a nervous night at Sochaux.

Jean-Alain Boumsong was shown the red card for a professional foul eight minutes after half-time when he deliberately brought down Francileudo Santos who was clean through on goal.

Santos had earlier given the home side the lead a minute before the break when Adel Chedli's cross found him on the penalty spot and the Brazilian made no mistake.

But Auxerre - without their injured France striker Djibril Cisse - made light of their numerical disadvantage because 11 minutes after the dismissal Benjamin Mwaruware's 30-yard strike left Sochaux goalkeeper Teddy Richert stranded to give them a 1-1 draw.

John Utaka scored a late winner to deny a brave Rennes outfit a point at the Felix Bollaert.

The 20-year-old striker scored in the third minute of injury time to secure a 1-0 win and leave Rennes frustrated at the bottom of the table.

Marama Vahirua's 19th-minute goal proved decisive as last season's Ligue 1 champions Lyon were beaten by Nantes at the Stade Beaujoire-Louis-Fonteneau.

Two goals from Martin Cardetti and a third from Fabrice Florese, who opened the scoring, propelled Paris St Germain to a 3-0 win over Strasbourg.

Troyes drew 1-1 with Le Havre, Montpellier edged Lille 1-0 and Sedan came from behind twice to draw with Monaco 2-2.

Ajaccio claimed a dramatic victory in their first Corsican derby since promotion to the French Ligue 1, beating Bastia 2-1.

In the teams' first league meeting for nearly 30 years, Bastia took a 27th-minute lead through striker Lilian Laslandes.

But nine minutes later Bruno Rodriguez's free-kick levelled the scores, and with added time fast approaching at the end of the game, substitute David Faderne shot home from 20 metres to stun Ajaccio's hosts. The victorious visitors are up to 12th place, three ahead of Bastia.



FC Nantes' Olivier Quint battles with Pegguy Luyindula of Olympique Lyon.

Marseille 2 Bordeaux 1, Guingamp 0 Nice 0, Lens 1 Rennes 0, Montpellier 1 Lille 0, Nantes 1 Lyon 0, PSG 3 Strasbourg 0, Sedan 2 Monaco 2, Sochaux 1 Auxerre 1, Troyes 1 Le Havre 1, Bastia 1 Ajaccio 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Nice	7	4	2	1	13	4	14
2. Auxerre	7	4	2	1	8	4	14
3. Guingamp	7	3	3	1	11	6	12
4. PSG	7	3	3	1	9	5	12
5. Lens	7	3	3	1	7	5	12
6. Lyon	7	3	2	2	16	9	11
7. Bordeaux	7	3	2	2	7	4	11
8. Marseille	7	3	2	2	7	7	11
9. Monaco	7	3	1	3	9	6	10
10. Sochaux	7	2	4	1	10	8	10
11. Nantes	7	3	1	3	9	9	10
12. Ajaccio	7	2	3	2	6	7	9
13. Montpellier	7	2	2	3	3	5	8
14. Le Havre	7	1	4	2	5	6	7
15. Bastia	7	2	1	4	7	10	7
16. Strasbourg	7	1	4	2	7	13	7
17. Troyes	7	1	3	3	3	8	6
18. Sedan	7	1	3	3	5	11	6
19. Lille	7	1	3	3	4	10	6
20. Rennes	7	0	2	5	4	13	2

ALAIN'S CORNER

NICE ON TOP !!!



Alain Barataud

This week the French League have played two rounds on Wednesday and Saturday, and the lucky club Nice still on top of the league after securing a win middle week against Marseille Two - Nil and a very good draw in Guingamp for the game of week.

The city of Nice was on fire for the derby of the French Riviera on Wednesday against Marseille, it was exactly ten years that Nice was not party anymore for a top game since they were relegated in the League two.

For this game the Ray Stadium was packed and ready to celebrate their heroes for another surprise victory, and prove to all the club of France they deserve to be in the Elite League after a summer of speculations, to be or not to be part of the League One.

All the players have give back their bonus to accede the League One to save the Nice and today they get back their sacrifice to be the leader of the league.

Nice the smaller budget of the league, all the player were free agent or are on loan, are now scaring the rich club as Lyon, Paris, Lens ect... saying they will try to stay on top as long as they can!!!

This week was as well a great week for Guy Roux the coach of Auxerre who equal and beat the record of Kader Firoud as the coach with the more game on the bench.

Seven hundred and eighty-three game as coach in the League one, new record in France, more than twenty years on the bench coaching is only team Auxerre, and his players made him a beautiful present with a win again Bastia at home and a draw in Sochaux to finish this week, as well as co-leader of the League with Nice.

Very good results before their first game in the Champions League in PSV Eindhoven on Tuesday.

For the other two team concerning with the Champions League Lyon and Lens, both were playing last Tuesday for a repetition of a Champions League game and Lyon with a beautiful free-kick from Junhino take the three point.

But this week-end Lyon have lost one -nil in Nantes playing more than one hour with ten men and Lens have secure a one-zero victory against Rennes who till last with only two points and no victory.

Now Bergeroo and his men have to win the Britany Derby against Nantes next week if he want to be the coach for few more games, if not it will be his last game this year until he find a new club. In the Champions League this week Lyon will be away in Ajax and Lens away against AC Milan.

Marseille two-one victory over Girondins Bordeaux was their first home win of the season and both winners Monaco and Paris made as well a good result to be only two and three points just behind Nice and Auxerre.

Franck Leboeuf the captain of Marseille had said: now after playing all the favorite team of the League Auxerre, Nantes, Monaco, Bordeaux and Lyon as well Nice the leader, we need to get three wins for our next three games and see where we are after ten round.

Next week, two games to watch on top of the League Lyon-Monaco and Bordeaux-Lens.





NATIONAL LEAGUE 2002/2003 ROUND 1 FIXTURES



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

MARCONI STALLIONS V WOLLONGONG WOLVES

7.30pm *Marconi Stadium*



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

NEWCASTLE UNITED V SOUTH MELBOURNE

7.30pm *EnergyAustralia Stadium*



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

PARRAMATTA POWER V PERTH GLORY

7.30pm *Parramatta Stadium*



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

BRISBANE STRIKERS V NORTHERN SPIRIT

7.00pm *Ballymore Stadium*



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS V OLYMPIC SHARKS

6.00pm *Knights Stadium*



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

FOOTBALL KINGZ V SYDNEY UNITED

2.30pm *Ericsson Stadium*

